FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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LD011254 [Editorial Report]

Iran

Clergy and Politics — Tehran radio broadcast an exchange of letters between the Central Secretariat of Friday Imams and Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni in which the latter approved guidelines suggested by the Secretariat for limiting the political role of Friday imams. The regulations approved by Khomeyni stipulate that Friday imams must refrain from taking a position for or against candidates in Majlis elections and from using the Friday prayers for electoral purposes. Imams are requested not to take part in elections, and those who wish to run for the Majlis must resign from their Friday imam posts 3 months before the elections. Imams violating the regulations will be dismissed, though the Secretariat noted that these rules do not apply to the Friday imams of Tehran.

Foreign Relations — During a visit to Austria, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati stated that Austrian President Kurt Waldheim has accepted an invitation to visit Iran, Vienna ORF Teletext reported. In another development, the Foreign Ministry accused the French Embassy staff in Tehran of violating diplomatic norms and also claimed that French authorities are "harrassing" Iranian Embassy staff in Paris, IRNA revealed. The Iranian protest follows French police security checks outside the Paris embassy, AFP said, noting that the checks came amid reports that the embassy is harboring an Iranian wanted for questioning in connection with bomb attacks in Paris last September.

Navy, Missiles — The chief of staff and naval commander attended a ceremony marking the relaunching of two warships in the Gulf, Tehran radio reported. The ships had undergone major repairs and were refitted with special components manufactured by Iranian experts. In central Iran, President 'Ali Khamene'i attended the last stage of missile exercises conducted by the Revolution Guards' missile brigade, IRNA noted. Khamene'i spoke of Iran's missile power as an "independent and prime determining factor," and he stressed the importance of missiles in fighting a modern war.

Gulf Conflict

An Iraqi spokesman cited by INA announced that Iraqi warplanes dealt an "effective, accurate blow" to a large maritime target near the Iranian coast 1 July.

Iraqi-Jordanian Summit

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Jordanian King Husayn held talks in Baghdad on developments in the Iran-iraq war, including the Iraqi armed forces' "capable defense of Iraq and the Arab nation," Amman radio reported. The Iraqi leader reassured King Husayn about the soundness of the military situation and the "high morale" of Iraqi forces. The talks also covered "Arab issues of common interest" and bilateral relations. An earlier report by the radio linked the king's visit to Iraq with his "persistent efforts on behalf of Arab solidarity." In this regard, the UAE's *Al-Ittihad* said that King Husayn's visit was aimed at briefing the Iraqi leadership on the results of his recent talks in Syria and at furthering his efforts to achieve reconciliation between Baghdad and Damascus, according to WAM.

Saudi Arabia

At a cabinet meeting in Al-Ta'if, King Fahd discussed the phenomenon of "pretenders" who exploit religion to undermine security in some Arab and Islamic countries, the information minister disclosed in a statement reported by Riyadh radio. Saudi citizens must be at the forefront to protect the purity of Islam from such "blemishes," the king said, and they must be alert to anyone who tries to harm the Kingdom's security by exploiting the religious call.

Lebanon

Voice of Lebanon radio reported that personnel manning a Syrian checkpoint in Beirut clashed with a convoy escorting Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, a Shi'ite cleric held to be Hizballah's spiritual guide. However, Hizballah's Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli ruled out any confrontation between Syria and Hizballah and also dismissed the possibility of a Syrian entry into the southern suburb, the radio stated subsequently. The Syrians have received a warning and know that the matter is not a simple one, he asserted. Another Voice of Lebanon report said a Hizballah delegation is currently visiting Damascus for talks with Syrian officials on the release of U.S. journalist Charles Glass.

Among further speculation about the foreign hostages, Shi'ite sources in Beirut contended that Hizballah recently transferred Terry Waite and two U.S. hostages to Iran, according to a British television report cited by London *Press Association*. The Hamburg magazine *Stern* disclosed that the FRG is alert to the possibility that friends of Muhammad Hamadah are planning terrorist acts on German soil to force his release, DPA reported.

Algeria

Remarks on Unity — National People's Assembly Speaker Rabah Bitat welcomed the "concrete and sound steps" made toward unity between the Algerian and Libyan revolutions, APS reported. Bitat stated that Algeria is seeking to build unity of the "Greater Maghreb," a theme also mentioned by President Chadli Bendjedid, who told the FLN Central Committee that Algeria is proposing the creation of a "Maghreb legislative body" representing all countries of the region. Meanwhile, Algiers radio noted that Libya's Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi continued his visit to Algiers.

Security — The last fugitive from Mostefa Bouali's "group of villains" was discovered and killed by security forces 29 June, APS reported. The Bouali group was an Islamic fundamentalist gang which attacked a police school in 1985 but was apprehended by security forces in January 1987.

Afghanistan

In a 27 June speech to the National Reconciliation Commission, broadcast by Kabul radio, PDPA General Secretary Najibullah suggested revising the country's name to "Republic of Afghanistan" because the present name was adopted hastily and "alienated a section of the people." The issue should be resolved during debates on the new draft constitution, he said.

The radio also broadcast a message from Afghan leaders to Iranian President Khamene'i urging Iran to assist Afghanistan in implementing its reconciliation policy and in restoring peace. *Bakhtar* had earlier criticized Khamene'i for meeting with leaders of Afghan "opposition extremist groups" in Tehran.

Libya's Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses National Assembly
LD300010 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2010 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the People's National Assembly in Algiers on 29 June — recorded; video shows Al-Qadhdhafi seated on dias]

[Text] Brother members of the Algerian National People's Assembly, brother speaker. It is an honor for me to have the privilege of meeting with you and of talking to you. Mr Speaker, you honored me a second time because you gave me the opportunity to speak from this platform some years ago. Some of the words then uttered from this platform have not been wasted; we stored them deep within ourselves and later transformed them into deeds, which serve the aspirations of our nation's unity.

From this platform years ago, I called for unity. I particularly persisted in establishing unity between two fraternal regions, Libya and Algeria. When I recall that session, I pray for the soul of our departed, the late Houari Boumediene, who was with me in this place on that day. I believe that in the time since I spoke to you, our movement has not retreated and our efforts have not been in vain. Our actions have been positive and our steps have gone forward sincethe last time I spoke.

Standing here once again, I express satisfaction with your efforts. This fraternal country will, God willing, in the coming months be crowned with the establishment of an Arab union between two parts of the great Arab homeland. Credit for the level we have reached since that meeting and for the successes we have achieved at this stage belongs to your determination and to your efforts. Algeria's effectiveness in this regard is the factor that brought the day of unity closer. We acknowledge that, thanks to you, we achieved unionist rapprochement between our two countries and peoples.

What we hope to achieve in the next few months will definitely result from the fact that you seriously considered what I advocated here. The claim that Algeria is not enthusiastic about Arab unity is not true. I am now certain that Algeria only needed enough time to take the necessary steps and to prepare the atmosphere for establishing a successful unity — one not open to setbacks.

The seriousness of Algeria's convictions is historically known and deserves my appreciation and admiration. This is because our Arab people in Algeria, as history has proven, hold their principles very seriously and are — without hesitation — prepared to pay a high price supporting stands they believe in and consider to be correct. When the Arab people of Algeria decided [words indistinct]and will not retreat despite all counterefforts by hostile forces, which allied themselves against the freedom of our people in Algeria. This historic stand reflects the Algerians' strong support of convictions they consider deserving of sacrifice and decisiveness. I believe that Algeria has a (?second) historic choice to make; namely,to change the map of the Arab homeland by originating unification of our Arab nation, which is divided, fragmented, and the target of aggression, and which has been denied its rights among nations.

I believe that the Algerians have again made a historic contemporary decision: facing up to yet another historic task — the unification of the Arab homeland — following national liberation. I have sensed on the part of Chedli Bendjedid, the brother president and militant, and his comrades the firm determination to meet this historic task and as a first step to work toward realizing the union between Algeria and Libya. Moreover, there is Algeria's optimism, which exceeds even that of Libya, that this union could include other countries in addition to Algeria and Libya.

Brothers, I am convinced that when you make a decision for unity, you will not hesitate in making it. History teaches that when the Algerians face up to a historic task, this means they are prepared. This is my own conclusion, one which I deeply believe. The Algerians are prepared to pay the cost no matter how high it may be, and they will not renege on their decision.

These days I have a feeling of satisfaction and joy. I believe that the Algerian brothers will soon face up to, or rather, have begun to face up to, yet another historic task in our contemporary history: The realization of Arab unity. Glory will be given to Algeria, which has made sacrifices for liberation and is now offering sacrifices for unity. Martyrs will be reassured in their graves that their great sacrifices will not have been for naught, but their souls will not rest as long as Arab unity is not achieved. They have made sacrifices for Algeria, and if Algeria had remained an isolated state, just like any other Arab ministate, then colonialism would return. It was to eliminate colonialism that these martyrs sacrificed themselves. Colonialism would return again and would incur further costs, and it might, with the help of modern methods, overcome our regional ministates.

The weapons of war have changed and the industrial states' hostile possibilities have increased. So have these states' aspirations to once again control the Third World and the developing nations, to once again seize sources of raw materials and strategic regions. They seek to divide the world into two camps without recognizing the rights of other peoples to be neutral and nonaligned. Such a scenario has now become plausible — the colonialists could decide to again return to Libya, Algeria, and Egypt.

You have seen how, when Egypt became weakened, the colonialists engaged in a free-for-all fight over it. Now efforts are being made to turn Egypt into a base for the U.S. imperialist Rapid Deployement Force in the Middle East and Africa. When the underling Numayri betrayed and sold out Sudan prior to his disgraceful downfall on 6 April 1985, when he betrayed his country and delivered it on a silver platter to U.S. imperialism with the encouragement of the treacherous Egyptian regime, the United States quickly converted Sudan into a base for the Rapid Deployment Force. America began to survey and prepare that territory to build land and sea bases for this force.

If they discover weakness in our countries they will return militarily at any time — quickly and without hesitation. (?There) are some Arab countries in the Arab region that have been prepared for the intervention of the antipeople Rapid Deployment Force. Airfields and ports are being readied to receive U.S. Rapid Deployment Forces at any time. Indeed, there are parts of the Arab homeland that come under U.S. strategic control. U.S.

supersonic strategic spy planes have controlled the airspace of some Arab countries for the benefit of the United States.

Therefore, if our nations remain small, paper states, we will not survive in this era, which is dominated by giants and large political groupings. The martyrs who sacrificed themselves for Algeria's freedom believe this freedom is threatened if Algeria remains a regional country, one that could lose its freedom at any time. The martyrs' souls will reach heaven and be at peace only when unity is achieved and when they have been assured of Algeria's security, for which they sacrificed their dear lives. They will see that Algeria has placed itself in the proper and secure grouping;namely, Arab unity.

I highly appreciate the Algerian people's heroic struggle. They faced many obstacles and problems at all levels, including external colonialism and internal problems created by colonialism such as underdevelopment, population growth, overconcentrated population in some areas, conspiracies against Algerian oil and gas, border conspiracies, and domestic conspiracies. All these had to be confronted, because colonialism felt its great loss after Algeria became independent and grew strong enough to play a unionist role, as it is doing now. Consequently, they conspired against this country to weaken it. All domestic and external conspiracies against Algeria that you have seen or heard about fall within this framework. But the suffering of our Arab people in Algeria turned this land into a giant nation that cannot be defeated. Jihad, crises, and the bitter, drawn-out colonialism made the will of Arab Algeria strong and challenging.

The sinister French imperialism wished to obliterate the Algerian Arab Islamic character through all its hostile actions against Algeria. What happened, however, was quite the opposite. The call for gallicizing Algeria and the claim that Algeria was part of France ignited the spirit of Arab nationalism. The crusading challenge produced enthusiasm for Islam in Algeria and produced suffering and fanaticism for Arab nationalism. Islam grew and became stronger due to the provocations Algerians faced concerning their precious faith in their Arabism, religion, and land — the Algerian land of the fathers and forefathers — which France foolishly claimed was an extension of French territory. France also claimed that the proud Algerian Arab people were French citizens and that Islamic Algeria, the nation of Islam, of Jihad, of mosques, and the Koran was subject to a (?follower) of the Crusades.

Strong as they may be, imperialists always err because power makes them lose sight of the truth. Power deceives those who hold it. They collided with an Arab, Muslim, and patriotic people. French destructive designs failed and foundered on the rock of heroic Algerian resistance, but this enemy still lies in wait for us. If it discovers weakness in us or a gap in our defenses, it will return.

We should build defenses and ties that protect us from this enemy and repel it, but what are these defenses and ties? There are no defensive trenches against the enemy and no reassuring combat tie other than Arab unity. As far as the countries of the Arab nation are concerned, any attempt — outside the framework of Arab unity — to confront foreign aggression or to rise internally would be naive and doomed to failure.

We emerge from bitter suffering. The Libyan Arab people lost hundreds of thousands to the genocide operations of Italian colonialism. Our Arab people of Algeria lost 1.5 million martyrs due to French colonialism. People of the Arab nation in the Arabian Peninsula in the Al-Sham region — the stretch from Palestine to Syria, including Lebanon and Jordan — have volunteered martyrs and are still doing so against foreign occupation.

We can summarize this stage as a stage of suffering, an era in which we lived with a foreigner who was an aggressor and a wrongdoer who wished to turn our nations into part of his own territory. Rome called Libya the fourth coast of Italy, and France considered Algeria a part of France. This could now be the picture for a youth in Libya or Algeria, a young person who did not live through that era and who is deceived by the slogans of the modern era. This is especially true of European slogans, behind which lie neocolonialism, racism, and preparation for yet another attack.

But a youth on the African island of La Reunion now lives in a part of France because La Reunion is part of France. A person who lives in Caledonia, in the Pacific, lives in a country that France has decided is part of France. A person who lives on Martinique feels there is crude injustice that a region in the Atlantic should belong to France. A person who lives on the Comoro island of Mayotte, an island which is Muslim and African, now finds that it is attached to France.

Those of us here laugh when we hear that Libya was the fourth coast of Italy. We say: How silly! We laugh when we hear that Algeria was considered part of France.

But there are people in other places who are experiencing this tragedy. They face this strange mentality — the mentality of the European colonialist who feels no shame and who does not hesitate to include deputies in the National Assembly from Reunion Island, in Africa near Madagascar, as part of France; and from Martinique, in the Atlantic; Caledonia in the Pacific; and Mayotte in eastern Africa — all belonging to France, as part of France. The Falkland Islands are in South America, and yet are part of Britain. Britain fought for them and claimed it did so in self-defense in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter. Britain, which is at the North Pole, travels to the South Pole to fight in the Falklands — which belong to Argentina — and yet claims that this was in self-defense according to Article 51 of the UN Charter. They falsify the UN Charter and falsify the right to self-defense. Aggression, colonialism, and taking possession of the territories of others now become self-defense. Thus, we are facing a savage, rude force that recognizes nothing except its control over the Arabs, to the extent its power will allow it to conquer. It does not recognize our rights at all.

When you were weak, this land was part of France. When we were weak in Libya, we were part of Italy. Now Israel is in Palestine. Therefore, we have no choice. Since we have emerged from the foreign colonialist phase, and the suffering, sacrifice, bloodshed, and wounds, we now have no choice but to work to prevent a return of that era. Whether it returns or not depends on our effectiveness, not on the aggressors' good intentions. The enemy has no good intentions; the enemy hates the Arabs, Islam, and the East. The strong states want to dominate the weak, and

the industrial states wish to find markets to sell their products. They want these markets to be regions of influence under their control — to be compelled to consume and not produce. The industrial states want to secure mines and raw materials — agricultural and industrial — for their own factories. The enemy who wants his trade to dominate the world and who wants the whole world to be a consuming market or mine, supplying him with raw materials, wants ultimately to control the world's strategic sensitive areas and communications lines. That means that he will be in control — I mean that he will control if he is able to.

They want to control the Strait of Gibraltar, the Strait of Bab al-Mandeb, the Strait of Hormuz, the Suez Canal. Control has now been achieved over the Suez Canal by imperialism and Zionism. The canal is now being used, in spite of the Arabs, for the war and the economic efforts of the Zionist enemy. Egypt was compelled to allow nuclear powered ships to pass through the canal, although international treaties say atomic powered ships are not allowed to pass through the Suez Canal. But because the U.S. aircraft carrier is atomic powered, and because America has decided to send it through the Suez Canal to the Mediterranean to attack Libya, Egypt — under compulsion and humbled — allowed this ship, this nuclear powered aircraft carrier, to pass through to attack Libya without anyone in the world saying that this is not allowed and is forbidden or that the treaty does not allow the passage of such a ship, such a naval unit, through the Suez Canal. The Israelis now want — as I have said — a barrier of ships, frigates, with which they can control the Strait of Gibraltar, because they have a plan that they want to implement one day which will not allow the entry of materials useful to the Arabs through the Strait of Gibraltar. They will have a checkpoint at the Strait of Gibraltar, just as they inspect ships going through the Strait of Tiran. The Strait of Tiran is now in the hands of the Israeli Army, which does not allow the entry of some materials into Jordan, Saudi Arabia, or Egypt. In the Red Sea, in the Strait of Tiran, there is an Israeli checkpoint where you are inspected by force; if you resist, they fire on you.

They fire missiles at you. They carry out inspections at Bab al-Mandeb. It is perhaps being done. You cannot pass through Bab al-Mandeb with materials that might harm the Zionist entity. The Strait of Hormuz is now controlled by the U.S. fleet; you have heard about the uproar in the United States over the Strait of Hormuz, as though this were a U.S. state of interest to U.S. security.

Concerning the Gulf of Sidra, the United States declared a state of emergency and empowered the U.S. President to enact laws and regulations declaring both a state of emergency and that he be given authority should U.S. security and U.S. interests at home and abroad be endangered. Libya claimed that the Gulf of Sidra belonged to the town of Surt, located in the heart of Libya. But the United States replied: No, this endangers U.S. interests; U.S. national security is being endangered. We did not travel to the United States; we did not invade it; we did not attack you in your homes. It is our gulf and it belongs to us. They said: No, it concerns the security of the United States; U.S. security depends on it. Why does U.S. security depend on the Gulf of Sidra? America wanted to advance in the Gulf of Sidra, but I said: No, this is enough; kill Al-Qadhdhafi. The United States used 33 aircraft to bomb Libya, and the clash between us thus began. U.S. aircraft were shot down, while we gave scores of martyrs for the sake of the gulf. This was brute, mad, aggressive, and reckless force, one which will not tolerate the growth of any other force in the world. The United States struggled against China so that China would not manufacture the atom bomb. They recognized Taiwan, that small island, and deprived China of UN membership. This is because China is a power; however, they do not want to recognize another power except for the force of the large states, the power of the aggressors, the power of those wanting to dominate this world without anyone being able to say no to them.

[Words indistinct] in the Gulf of Sidra and I said no; this is it [word indistinct] Al-Qadhdhafi. [Words indistinct] aircraft to bomb my house; they deliberately wanted to kill me and my family because I said no to them. How can a person say no to the United States? All peoples should yield to the United States. How can a person say: To hell with the United States? They mobilized 33 fighter-bombers from the United States and Britain, and 30 Boeing aircraft for refueling. These covered 4,000 miles. On the day of the attack there were 170 aircraft in the air, including scores of aircraft for refueling only, just as if the third or fourth world war had broken out. This is in addition to the U.S. 6th Fleet and the fact that all NATO bases were put on alert. All this was employed to strike the house of someone who said no.

The United States should not stage exercises in the Gulf of Sidra. They want to punish anyone who says no to this. This is a tyrannical force, and an example of tyranny. They have no humane feeling and no civilization, while the UN Security Council is obstructed by the U.S. veto. All peoples must give what they have in their hand or else receive blows from the United States. No matter how nice you may try to be toward the United States or to befriend it, the imperialists have no friends; they have only slaves or enemies. Either you are a slave to them or they will be your enemy. We refused to be slaves and this made us enemies who should be resisted. [applause]

My analysis is that this phase — no matter how many years it may last, maybe dozens of years or even more — as far as we Arabs are concerned, is a phase of national liberation, a phase of liberating ourselves from direct colonialism. Now we are passing through a new phase — the phase of preventing these tragedies' return to our land and to our peoples. What can we do? We should dig the trench we earlier referred to; there is no trench except for Arab unity. It is inevitable that we should seek protection from each other.

You will find that if something dangerous to human beings happens, you will then find them clinging to each other instinctively. This simple reaction shows us the entire nation's reaction. As long as danger threatens this nation's existence, its parts should draw closer together and join hands. If an explosion occurs or a wall collapses near you while someone else is also by you, you will automatically hold his hand. He holds your hand and you hold his; you do so without realizing what you are doing. Each one holds the hand of the other. This is the case when a car accident or anything else happens. We are now in danger.

The subconscious move we make is to cling to each other's hands — Libyan hands or Algerian hands or Mauritanian hands. [chants and applause] I, in fact, will return to Libya fully satisfied, as an Arab citizen and a soldier of this nation, that Algerians have absorbed the useful lessons to the extent that at today's session I said to my brother — struggler President Chadli Bendjedid and his companions — that I leave as a trust in your hands, you Algerian brothers, the projected federation [ittihad] between the two countries. So please draft the agreement, draft the articles, make the arrangements, plan the institutions, and we will sign.

This is out of our confidence in you — confidence in the Algerian mentality. [applause] I want Algeria to have the honor of changing the map in this region; revolutionary Libya has made concentrated efforts during the past 18 years. We made attempts at unity, as you know, and derived useful lessons from them. Those attempts were not in vain, because they brought the day of unity nearer; they created a unionist climate and made even the Arab kings, who are extremely far from unity and the revolutionary attitude — the crowned or uncrowned kings — sign the unity accords.If a setback was suffered, this was due to their attitudes and not to the attempts at unity.

But now we want the honor to go to the Algerians. We want to leave this task to our Algerian brothers — to change the map of both countries. As far as Libya is concerned, there is no problem. Your Libyan brothers await you. They were with you during the Algerian liberation war; those who were not with you by contributing what they owned were with you in their hearts. Whenever I come to Algeria I feel as though I am in a dream, because when we were students in high school, Algeria was French. Now we come to Algeria when it is free, independent, and Arab; it is actually a dream. This is because our will can change anything we want; by virtue of huge sacrifices it canceled the French decision and changed the map, changed what exists here.

I would like to reaffirm to you that your brothers in the Libyan Jamahiriyah view Algerians as special compared to the rest of the Arabs. They see the Algerian as a saint because he struggled, because he gave 1.5 million martyrs, and because he liberated a very important part of the Arab land from France, from crusading control, from Western domination, and from French colonialism. Algeria was subjected to Christianity; it was being subjected to a loss of national and religious identity. Libyans regard the action of the Algerians as something done for the entire Arab nation and not for Algeria alone.

I want to assure you that the morale of your Libyan brothers is high and that confidence in you is immense. I will tell them that Algeria has made this new historic decision to add to all its other historic decisions. I will reaffirm to them that the Algerians, if they make a decision, will be sure to implement it. The Algerians will even pay a high price to implement a decision they make. In fact, the Algerian attitude of seeking unity and the requirements of international circumstances were evident in the national charter regarding Arab unity that was put to a referendum.

In fact, I paused a long time over the expressions that the Algerian Charter contained about unity and regarded them as the cornerstone for unity between us, as well for Arab unity. An article in the charter says that Algeria believes in the possibility of realizing Arab unity. This shows that you believe in the possibility of establishing Arab unity. This means no one can come and say: Arab unity is impossible and cannot be realized, and so how do you plan to realize unity among these people? But the article definitely says that Algeria believes in the possibility of realizing Arab unity.

I have emphasized this; it is great. Algeria believes in the possibility of realizing Arab unity. This means that Algeria believes in the possibility of realizing Arab unity and that Arab unity is possible. That is a fact. No one in Algeria can say that unity is impossible, or doubt that we can unite Algeria with Libya and Algeria with Yemen, for example. No. After discussion and a referendum and long bitter experience you have come to believe that Arab unity is possible. This is a historic conclusion and decision.

Algeria also struggles for the realization of this goal. This means that Algeria is committed to struggle — not just to contribute but to fight to realize this goal, which has become a necessity in the era of major international groupings.

This Algerian awareness is a necessity in the era of major international groupings. In other words, we have been able to absorb the international reality that our era is one of large international groupings. As for the small state, they can no longer survive. The United States cannot gather 170 aircraft and attack the Soviet Union because the latter is strong, but it attacked Libya with these 170 aircraft, even though the Soviet Union constitutes more danger to it than Libya. In this era, the small nations are trampled underfoot.

Arab unity has become a necessity in the age of large groupings. Because of this, Algeria continues its call for preparing a unified Arab strategy that, through political will and by overcoming transient conditions, can mobilize the Arab nation's huge resources and numerous capabilities. This gives content to unity, because this is a deep Algerian awareness.

I am very satisfied with this analysis, for these words are not a hollow expression. They instead show awakening. A person who possesses this awareness may rest assured that he will achieve unity and then safeguard it. He achieves a real unity and will give it content — the Arab nation's huge resources and numerous capabilities. He will realize this unity if the political will exists.

Actually, there is nothing to prevent the unification of political will in both countries, Algeria and Libya. It also says that the Arab unity project Algeria has drafted the introduction providing potentials and basic needs that believe in unity, struggle for it, and show this unity's benefits. [sentence as heard] It was thus subsequently included in the charter. This is a glorious sequence, one which was entered into the action program.

The project of Arab unity requires preparing practical steps, not haphazard action and the spirit of maneuvering, as in the case of someone wishing to establish unity because he feels some specific pressure. If one feels he possesses the right to establish unity due to temporary circumstances, if this is so, then under what sort of circumstances is this true? This means that unity will end when

these circumstances no longer serve a purpose.

[Words indistinct] if someone establishes unity as a result of specific circumstances, it is not a united action but instead a maneuver. Unity is not subject to temporary, circumstantial conditions, for this method of achieving unity delays instead of advances its realization, and also causes great disappointments. From here, economic and social transformations and the political choices required from the masses are the decisive elements in realizing this historic task.

The Algerian charter also states that unity is a historic task. This is splendid and proper — a historic task. It did not read: political action or an emotional act, but rather a historic task. You now precisely face the historic task of realizing Arab unity. It is similar to the historic task of liberating Algeria.

A visiting delegation preceded me, one led by Brother Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud and a number of Libyan political, executive, and revolutionary persons. They held talks with their Algerian counterparts, and now I have come to underline the task due to my experience as a military man.

Now, actually, to emphasize the military task when it seeks out the destruction...[changes thought] To carry out a military task like, for example, a raid on Tripoli, the Americans launched another raid at dawn to emphasize the task, to emphasize that the target had been hit. But they failed. The military has something called emphasizing the task.

I have actually come here to emphasize the great task, that is, that Algerians and Libyans have realized an objective. Here I am among you to declare to the world that we have emphasized our task through our joint will. I have really come here to salute you and to emphasize to the world that what has been announced in the past days is a reality and that it has been emphasized through the meeting between myself and my militant brother, President Chadli.

It has also been emphasized before the representatives of the Algerian people, the National People's Assembly, at this hour. I would like to convey to you the feelings your brothers in Libya have toward you. At the same time I will convey to your Libyan brothers what I have felt at these meetings — this preparedness and the speech that my militant brother, Rabih Bitat, speaker of the Assembly, made expressing your feelings. It was your speech and the speech of the Algerian people that you represent. Therefore, I would like to convey this speech and this historic gathering to your brothers.

Enemies might conspire against us [words indistinct]. They will try to spread poison among us in the next few months and they will falsify facts and tell lies and fabricate anything in order to disturb the atmosphere of unity, because Arab unity is a serious thing, just like the Algerian revolution and the Libyan revolution.

Libya used to be a U.S. base. That base was demolished. It was a grave act [words indistinct]. The Algerian revolution is a grave act. Did they let the Algerian revolution succeed easily? They made every effort to exterminate Algeria and the Algerian people. How can one say to America: To hell with you!

We will hear about intrigues; they will send letters; they will write in newspapers; they will write secret leaflets of unknown origin; they will make false statements. If they have any sick-minded person, any traitor in Libya or Algeria, they will mobilize him; he will sabotage anything. Sometimes it could be a simple individual: An Algerian delegation goes and spends the night in a Libyan hotel and he will cut off the water or electricity to it; a trivial individual whose task will be to cut off water or electricity. He would thus suggest to the delegation: Look at Libyan intentions toward you; we do not want unity. Here you are, I cut off your water.

Yes, the enemies of unity would mobilize a simple individual. A Libyan and an Algerian could have a road accident. But what would a mere car accident like this mean? We must be vigilant about these kinds of things, simple things. The simplest thing could lead to the biggest thing.

Thus, I am deliberately saying this publicly to let them know that we know that they will be plotting and conspiring.

Brothers, I want to affirm to you that your Arab people in Libya stand with you, just as you stand with them. I believe that when we stand with each other it is a matter of self-defense, not a matter of thanking or rewarding one another. We shall not forget your stand when the NATO, barabric aggression took place against my house, my family, your country, Tripoli, and Benghazi. Nor shall we forget the noble and revolutionary attitude of the Algerian leadership and people, and the Algerian reports that, in fact, spoke on behalf of the Libyan people. The Libyan media and reports may not have adequately expressed the situation when compared to Algerian information. Algerian information and the Algerian press, radio, and news agency have spoken on behalf of Libyan information in describing the situation during that difficult event.

They tried to subjugate us, but they failed. They tried to kill us, but they failed. Death is in the hands of God. What matters is not death but the destruction of will. They sought to destroy our will. They wanted to subjugate us; they wanted to prevent us from continuing with unionist action, the struggle to liberate Palestine, and support for the world revolution and the peoples struggling for freedom. But under the bombardment our voice was loud. Bombardment destroyed houses and walls but it failed to destroy our will. We proved to them that we could become more defiant and stubborn, that they should respect us, treat us on an equal footing, and respect our choices for life. We too want to live in peace, but we live proudly and worthily on our land. We have a place under the sun on earth; we must live in it with strength and merit, with a loud voice and heads held high.

They therefore failed in their aggression, and shame was brought upon those who colluded with them, those who believed that the aggression would kill Al-Qadhdhafi, bring the Libyan people to their knees, and put an end to the revolution — the great Al-Fatih revolution. They were disgraced, they failed, and were defeated; they began to hide from others due to the great shame and disgrace that befell them as a result of their collusion, after believing that it would quickly attain its aim.

Greetings to the free men who stood up on our side during those moments; greetings to the Algerian people, the Algerian leadership, and the Algerian media, whose voice resounded throughout the world in those moments despite a lack of direct contact between Libya and Algeria during those events. Algeria assumed the task of denunciation and condemnation; it led the world against this aggression and declared that Algeria lay with Libya in the same trench. Our revolutionary struggle continues, brothers, until the objectives of our nation are realized: pride, unity, and loftiness.

Peace and the blessings of God be upon you. [applause and the chanting of slogans] When they say Al-Fatih, this means Al-Fatih of November, and also Al-Fatih of September; we are all Al-Fatih. [applause]

AL-MUSAWWAR Chief Editor Interviews Mubarak

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[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by Makram Muhammad Ahmad, editor in chief of *Al-Musawwar*; date and place not given]

[Text] [Ahmad] The president asked me: How are you now, following the incident [the attempt to assassinate Makram Muhammad Ahmad]? I said that what I feared most was that those responsible would take something from inside me, but I strongly feel that they have not succeeded in doing so. Perhaps now I am more determined than ever to say what I believe to be right and what I believe to be wrong.

I want to ask: What specifically do they want? Why have three terrorist incidents occurred within a single month, despite the fact that there are many signs indicating that the culprits were perhaps not the same in all three incidents?

[Mubarak] Let us first agree that these incidents — although they occurred in succession and were perpetrated by different people — cannot undermine Egypt's stability or threaten its internal security. As you know, I am not one who belittles matters. However, we must put things in their proper context to ensure that we do not err in analyzing what happened or fail to grasp its significance.

There are those outside the country who want to undermine Egypt's stability and internal security. They want to distort the magnitude of the great achievements accomplished by Egypt in the last 5 years, achievements gained despite the great economic difficulties that confronted us as a result of conditions for which we were not greatly responsible: the fall in oil prices, the decrease in the number of citizens working abroad, and the stability of Suez Canal revenues. You are aware of all these reasons.

Here at home there are groups, limited in size and strength, which imagine that by resorting to terrorism they can claim a greater presence than in fact exists. I do not describe these groups as religious. They are made up of youth who have been misled by incorrect thinking, for Islam has never been a religion of violence or terrorism. In its essence and texts, Islam is a religion of tolerance and dialogue. It advocates giving good advice not coercion and violence.

The other side of the problem is that a wave of violence and terrorism now prevails in the world. Perhaps such a wave has found points of support in places near us and around us; consequently, a certain degree of influence from this wave of world terrorism hasinfiltrated to us. The only way to prevent this from happening is for Egypt to arm itself with a citizens' awareness of the gravity of the objectives such a wave of terrorism seeks to achieve in Egypt. I believe that it is the duty of all Egyptians and all political forces in Egypt to resist such infiltration and to support the Egyptian security service to ward off the wave of terrorism coming from abroad.

The common denominator in all such actions is that they seek to undermine the image of stability in Egypt. If we had not made such great achievements, Egypt would not have become a target for so many outside forces. These forces do not like to see a secure Egypt amid the stormy ocean around us and, after a long absence, the emergence of a sound democratic life, which for the first time in an Arab country is proceeding along a clear course toward maturity.

[Ahmad] Mr President, I do not believe that there is a single Egyptian who is now unaware that Egypt is the target of numerous outside forces. Some people accuse the Palestinian Left. Others believe that the Syrians perhaps have had a hand in what happened. Some people ask: Despite his failure in many past attempts, what is there to prevent Al-Qadhdhafi from trying again? Some people even believe the Israeli Mossad may have an interest in undermining Egypt's domestic stability.

[Mubarak] The outside motives for some of what has happened are crystal clear. However, we must not be hasty and accuse a specific side before the investigations are complete unless we have proof and corroborating evidence. At that time, I will proclaim the entire truth to everyone and I will clearly and unambiguously level an accusation against any external power that contributed to such a plot.

[Ahmad] Mr President, speaking of foreign motives, what do you think about the group which calls itself Egypt's Revolution and which defines its objectives as chasing the Americans and Israelis?

[Mubarak] In turn I ask you: What does it hurt those people to call themselves any name that they wish if their only goal is to print some leaflets and send them stealthily to certain news agencies and papers?

Their leaflets say that their terrorist acts will help President Mubarak in his negotiations with the Israelis and the Americans. This is what has amazed me the most.

These naive words expose their true intentions. How can acts of terrorism bolster the legitimate leadership, and in what negotiations and for what objectives?!

I know for certain that these people are a very small and limited group. I tell them that Egypt is not suffering from the pressures they describe. Egypt has its own national will and makes independent decisions.

I tell those people and others that Egypt's legitimate leadership is not suffering from any external pressure which seeks to force it to relinquish anything. Let everyone know that there is nothing in the office of the presidency to tempt me to remain one moment longer if the price is relinquishing this homeland's soil or security. I cannot be tempted to remain in the presidency if it means making a decision contrary to the homeland's will and interests.

Maybe those people or others do not know that the only honor I want is to be recorded in the history of this homeland as being among those who participated in the October war and who shouldered some of its burdens. This is my only source of pride

and this is the only honor I want to keep. The presidency is a duty I am responsible for as long as I feel I can preserve this homeland's soil, maintain its rights, and defend its security. No circumstance can force me to give something I do not want to give. This is an old story that need not be repeated. The Egyptian will know how to maintain his independence. We paid a heavy price for this. The entire world knows that Egypt is deeply concerned about the independence of its national will.

Therefore, such people fool no one with their words. This small group strikes at Egypt's stability for non-Egyptian objectives. Its motives will be revealed in the near future.

What does Egypt reap from their acts? Nothing but a shaken image of stability, diminished development opportunities, and discouraged investors. These acts also cause people to hord their funds instead of using them in projects that provide new job opportunities for new workers, that help strengthen Egypt's intrinsic power, and that increase taxes so the state can fulfill its obligations toward the weakest sector of its population. What would happen if they succeed — and they will not — in their goals? The economic problem will become more severe, we will be unable to cope with the horrifying increase in population, and unemployment will rise. Furthermore, if they succeed, domestic unrest may erupt and Egypt may become a site for terrorist movements and chaos.

I tell you once again: Stability is the target. This is because Egypt realizes great achievements with stability. If there are one or two hotbeds of tension, they have an inevitable destiny. The important thing is that the Egyptian citizen must be made aware of the schemes and objectives. In this way, the political forces will know the gravity of danger and all of us can help the Egyptian security apparatus in its difficult mission rather than increasing its hardships.

[Ahmad] Mr President, if these are the motives of external forces that seek to strike at Egypt's stability, then matters become somewhat different when we consider the motives of violent groups which misunderstand religion. Mr President: It seems that there has been no national consensus on how to deal with the problem so far. Some believe that part of the problem is caused by a type of thinking whichnaturally leads to violence. Others believe that the problem has its social roots in the economic dilemma which has befallen us and in the sharp social disparity which occurred in the 1970's, causing structural defects and cracks in society — defects and cracks that robbed society of some stablity. Still others believe the most important reason for this phenomenon lies in our youths' despair of securing a better future.

[Mubarak] If there are social reasons that prompt some of our youth to believe in incorrect ideas which promote terrorism and violence, then we must ask ourselves the question: What is our current stand toward these problems? Are we working justly and continuously to change this reality, or are we sitting with our hands tied, thus allowing the situation to deteriorate? Are we not supposed to ask ourselves the question: What has Egypt harvested after all these long years of war before stability was established?!

According to the current estimates of experts, through its continuous wars Egypt has lost about 1,000 billion Egyptian pounds, an amount that could have changed the face of Egyptian life in both rural and city areas. The harvest has been a frightening collapse that permeated all facilities: sewerage, roads, electricity, transportation, and communication. This harvest was also represented by a terrifying erosion of Egypt's productive capabilities. The war did not leave us with a surplus we could use to renew our outdated and outmoded factories, and the agricultural sector had been neglected. We even turned cultivable areas into wastelands and allowed soil erosion to occur.

We had to start everything from scratch. We also had to meet the demands of 6 million people — the number of new mouths added to the Egyptian population census during the last 5 years. Egypt found itself compelled to spend 7 billion pounds merely to tackle the problem of sewerage in Cairo and Alexandria. The sewerage networks in both cities have not been repaired, maintained, or developed for more than 80 years. We have chosen to allocate this amount for sewerage projects because the problem has been exacerbated and the only alternative envisaged was to walk in streets and areas covered in swamps and pools that spread disease and infection. Can we not consider this effort to be a gigantic accomplishment designed to bring about social change? The sewerage networks of Cairo will serve all strata of society: The rich and poor alike. Before the final project was completed, Alexandria's sewerage networks used to serve only 40 percent of its houses. The new living quarters were completely deprived of sewerage services.

When Egypt finds itself facing a frightening shortage of energy sources, are we not supposed to build new stations? Without sufficient energy, it is impossible to have productive investment in industry or agriculture. We have spent 2.5 billion pounds to increase our energy generation capacity during the last 5 years, an increase which represents more than twice the generation capacity of the High Dam stations when they are at peak operation. When Egypt finds itself emerging from long years of war with a public sector possessing outmoded equipment and machines, are we not then dutybound to renew its productive structure? The only alternative is selling the equipment and machines as spare parts, something which will make us dependent on imported commodities. When Egypt finds itself facing a crushing housing crisis that resulted from decisions and policies which caused everyone to refrain from investing in housing, are we not then dutybound to double our efforts to alleviate the burdens imposed on society by a gigantic problem that affects everyone?

The situation only 5 years ago was characterized by the following: A total collapse in communications including telephones, which at that time were useless because it was impossible for two houses in the same city to communicate; a total collapse of the railways, which have not been developed or renewed for many long years; and a total collapse in the street and road networks of big cities, which have become congested with people and vehicles. Are we not then dutybound to tackle these problems through drastic solutions and many accomplishments that are primarily directed at overhauling society's infrastructure, without which it is impossible to hope for bringing about investment or development?

I do not think that it has crossed anyone's mind that these huge, cumulative, and complicated problems could find a final solution in 5 or 10 years, especially since every 5 years our population increases by 6 million, the size of an entire small state. Despite the economic hardships faced by the entire world, the main thing is that we are working and advancing in all directions. We are seeking a fair growth in which all of society's resources will be utilized to achieve a better future.

If those who speak about the social roots of the movements of terrorism and violence want to tell us that we must coexist with the violence and terrorist phenomenon if we want to secure a home for every citizen and a good job opportunity for every youth, then I say to these people: Whether you know it or not, you are actually seeking unreal reasons and justifications for terrorism. There can be no justifications for terrorism. There are big powers that have still not found solutions to their social problems. The USSR, whose revolution is 60 years old, has not yet secured a suitable home for every citizen. Only yesterday I was visited by a senior Soviet official, who told me: The slogan of securing a suitable home for every citizen has not yet been achieved. Even England, as well as other countries, are facing the same problem.

[Ahmad] Mr President, perhaps part of the problem is that during the big social gap in the 1970's, society was given a false and hazy picture of prosperity. When that picture was replaced by a gloomy one that dispelled all hopes for a better future, society was shocked by the facts.

[Mubarak] This is not true. A social gap indeed did occur in the 1970's that upset the social balance, but what did we do?

Those who acquired huge profits by illegal means were made accountable by the socialist public prosecutor. We did not harbor corruption, nor did we protect anyone. This is still our position today. Whoever has solid evidence and correct charges should report them to the socialist public prosecutor. We cannot charge people on suspicions alone.

Let us argue realistically with public interest as our main consideration. Let us ask ourselves: Which option is correct; do we defame those people who acquired wealth in the 1970's strictly on the basis of suspicion, or do we tell them: You have a duty to society to invest your money in projects useful to you and to society? New projects open new jobs, meet society's needs, and increase revenues for the government in the form of taxes, thereby enabling the government to cope with its tasks.

The private sector invested approximately 10 billion pounds in the previous development plan. We hope that it will invest 19 billion pounds in the coming plan. These funds will be invested in projects that cannot be carried out by the public sector because it does not have the necessary capital, despite society's urgent need for such projects. I also know for certain that Egypt can only develop by using all its resources in the best manner possible. The private sector can play a vital role in this development.

Let me be candid and tell you that the Egyptian media have also contributed toward confusing the public on what I believe are very clear issues. Your theories and philsophies have unjustifiably complicted matters and contributed to the doubts and ambiguity.

You talk about open-door production and consumption as though you are talking about paradise and hell, good and evil, or right and wrong. This is not the case, because even the opening of a mineral water plant is production work. I do not import finished products; I manufacture them in Egypt, in Egyptian plants and factories that provide job opportunities for thousands of Egyptian workers. This, in my opinion, is the only real difference between open-door production and open-door consumption.

You say that we are responsible for the dispelled hopes because we faced the people with the facts without any embelishments. I say that it was our duty to do so in order to ensure that the people get the true full picture. We do not want to drive the people to despair. We want everyone to know that Egypt's difficult economic problems can only be solved through work and production. Prosperity will not fall like rain from heaven. People will have to work sufficiently hard and produce what they need.

Is it not strange for a recent study by a renowned institute to say that the Egyptian's average work effort inside his country does not exceed 37 minutes? [not further specified] Of course, I do not believe these figures and they may not be accurate. Furthermore, the study may not be based on the average worker. Still, low productivity is our common complaint. I do not doubt for a moment that the Egyptian work effort can attain higher productivity levels.

[Ahmad] Mr President, what is most astonishing is that while the Egyptian's productivity level is low in his own country, he has attained astonishingly high levels abroad.

[Mubarak] The reason is clear and simple. The punishment and reward system abroad is very strict. The performance reports are also very accurate. Here, however, the annual reports describe everyone as hardworking and excellent and recommend increments for everyone.

[Ahmad] Is it realistic to expect the private sector to invest 19 billion pounds in the next 5-year plan when it is still complaining about the complications of government red tape and the credit ceilings recently set by the Central Bank to curb loans?

[Mubarak] I believe that the private sector can invest the amounts set in the plan if it ceases to be overcautious. The private sector invested more than 10 billion pounds in the previous plan in housing, industrial, and agricultural projects, the results of which can be seen in the new cities. Believe me, I forget all my problems when I see the enormous achievements that have been made in these cities and the industries that have been set up in all sectors.

If there are some problems, then the government is determined to find solutions to them. I believe that the Council of Ministers will meet after the budget and plan have been discussed in order to formulate new policies that will encourage private sector investments in the Second 5-Year Plan.

As for the question of credit ceilings, this is a Central Bank decision which can be changed if the result will give a strong push forward to production issues.

[Ahmad] Mr President, do you have a comment on the performance of Dr 'Atif Sidqi's government?

[Mubarak] The government is working in silence. It does not make a lot of fuss or hullabaloo. They study their problems quietly — with the members of the government fully cooperating with one another — and then they emerge with realistic solutions. I was pleased by the government's realism in the measures it recently took to solve exchange rate problems. It enabled the banks to carry out their lost role, and it fixed the value of the dollar on the basis of a realistic market price. It was thus able to regain the people's confidence as demonstrated by the increase in transfers that have currently risen to approximately $200 million. They are now busy with important, vital studies of many of Egypt's problems, but they do not discuss them until they are sure that their solutions can succeed.

[Ahmad] Mr President, what is your view of what another group of people has said; namely, that the constraints imposed by the law on political parties does not give all of the political forces in Egypt the opportunity to openly express their views and, consequently, hasprompted some of them to pursue illegal means? This group also believes that the problem may also partly be due to the electoral law and its difficult requirement on the need to obtain 8 percent of the vote.

[Mubarak] I am astonished by such a confusion of the issue. These groups, and I insist that they are not religious groups, oppose all forms of democracy. If they were honest with themselves and with their homeland, then they would not have embarked on a new wave of violence when the representatives of the Islamic current found an opportunity to be reasonably represented in the People's Assembly. Has the entry of representatives from the Islamic current into the People's Assembly persuaded these groups to change their attitude? On the contrary, the acts of violence occurred after the elections.

[Ahmad] Mr President, regardless of the reasons for such a confusion of the issue, in practice the application of the electoral law — prior to and after its amendment — has created difficulties in understanding the law and has created many problems that accompanied its application. Why the insistence on an unclear law to which the Egyptian voter is unaccustomed?

[Mubarak] Let it be clear that the only benefit I seek from the electoral law is that it benefit Egypt. The electoral law is not the Koran and it is not sacred. It can be reviewed. We can discuss the possibility of reviving the electoral law for independent constituencies. I do not champion one view against another unless I believe that it serves the national interest. The question now is: When will that be?

Will it be now, as some people are claiming? I will ask you a question in return: Wha' kind of country will we be if we dissolvethe People's Assembly once every 6 months?

What caused me the greatest pain in the recent elections was the decrease in the number of voters in the cities to unreasonable levels: Of 1.2 million voters in Cairo, only 200,000 went to the ballot box — and Cairo is the capital of the intellectuals and the educated. Your problem as intellectuals is that you talk; but when it comes to acting, then it is another matter. I am almost certain that those who voted are the ideologues from the various sectors. The rest did not vote because each of them had a mistaken idea in his head: "Why should I go and vote if they are going to succeed anyway?"

The issue is not that simple. We must go and vote to participate in guarding democracy. We must vote because when the majority votes, the true size of all the political forces in society is manifested.

The other question is how will that be accomplished and the answer is clear: through the constitutional institutions and through their legitimate channels.

[Ahmad] Mr President, do you believe that the means currently at our disposal are adquate and strong enough to confront the acts of terrorism that seek to undermine Egypt's internal security? There is a general concern, Mr President, that the security apparatus has thus far not managed to apprehend all of the perpetrators involved in the latest acts of terrorism, with the exception of those involved in the attempt on Abu Basha's life.

[Mubarak] If you are referring to the competence of the Egyptian security apparatus, then I want to tell you that I have faith in the ability of this apparatus to protect Egypt's internal security and todefend it against the risks involved in this wave. The problem lies in the fact that those in the security apparatus are dealing with a limited number of men who perpetrate these crimes. However, I believe that they have obtained important clues that will enable them to identify the perpetrators. If the Egyptian security services had been incapable and incompetent, then the number of these incidents would have doubled, as is happening throughout the region. I do not want to name countries suffering from terrorism, but I do want to say that all fraternal or neighboring countries are currently suffering from more than twice the terrorism we are experiencing. As for Egypt, the number of terrorist incidents perpetrated can still be counted on the fingers of one hand.

However, the issue does not only concern the security apparatus. Part of the issue is related to the citizens' awareness and to theparties' understanding of the risks involved in the perpetration of acts of terrorism. This issue is also related to the understanding on the part of each of us of the importance of supporting the security apparatus and cooperating with it instead of trying to discourage it and to undermine its efforts through irresponsible campaigns. The Egyptian security service is doing what is beyond human capabilities to preserve the security of this country. It is, however, regrettable to see this apparatus deprived of adequate support and encouragement from various forces which realize the seriousness of the situation and which understand the consequences of a possible escalation of terrorism and violence capable of targeting both supporters and opposition figures. If stability is being targeted and if the objective is to prevent the completion

of our democratic march, then terrorism can reign supreme and affect us all.

I want to ask every Egyptian: Who are the police officers and the policemen? Are they not Egyptian citizens? Are they not our sons — my son, your son, and the sons of others? They are all subjected to serious dangers because they are pursuing terrorists and storming their dens. Some of these men have been killed and martyred while others have been seriously injured. They do not lead the normal life we lead; they do not return to their homes very often, and they are kept away from their families for long periods of time. Would the reward then be an unjust campaign of slander launched by some parties because a limited number of transgressions were committed under very hard circumstances? Our efforts to discredit them would amount to an attempt to discredit ourselves because they are from us. They are Egyptians. They do not have the ruthlessness which some are talking about. I appeal to all Egyptian institutions, to all political forces, and to all citizens to help and to cooperate with these unknown soldiers who are preserving Egypt's internal security and defending our lives. Finally, I would like to say that I have faith in the Egyptian judiciary, which realizes the magnitude of the difficulties facing the Egyptian security service.

[Ahmad] Mr President, what will the new 5-year development plan bring to Egypt? It is the second 5-year development plan since you assumed your responsibilities as president. It also begins on a date close to that of your nomination for a second presidential term. Mr President, what do you hope to achieve through the implementation of this plan?

[Mubarak] You know my realism. You also know that I do not like to beautify things or realities in order to promote them. Egypt needs more than two development plans to help alleviate its problems. Besides, Egypt's problems will not be solved through the implementation of one, two, or three development plans. Egypt's problems will indeed be solved through clarity of vision, a determination to reach objectives, and a commitment to bring about a just and continuous development that restores stability to society's structure. Hence, the plan becomes no more than an organization of Egyptian efforts and capabilities in order to invest them in the best possible manner within the framework of our declared objectives.

The first plan has achieved a great deal, despite the enormous hardships which it faced, especially in the fields of energy, infrastructure, housing, and new communities, as well as in renewing production machinery for public sector factories and urging the private sector to participate in development through new projects. Among the most prominent of these projects is the ready-to-wear industry, which improved tangibly until it was able to compete with similar European industries in terms of quality and taste andreasonable prices vis-a-vis those abroad.

Personally, I wear these clothes. I think that when the average price of summer safari suits abroad ranges between $250-$300 and you can find similar suits in Egypt in quality and taste with prices that begin at 40 pounds and reach 100 pounds for the luxurious ones, we have to commend this effort. It has managed to reach foreign markets with unexpected success.

It gave me great pleasure to see one of our senior guests buy 12 luxurious shirts for which he paid considerably less than what he would pay for 1 or 2 shirts abroad. Therefore, we can succeed and compete. This feeling fills me with pride and happiness, especially when I return from my trips to factories and new cities and after seeing the high quality and efficiency of Egyptian production. This is the practical embodiment of Egypt's awakening, when we prepare the right atmosphere for production and when new groups of businessmen appear who give their effort to the main issue at hand.

If you are asking about the Second 5-Year Plan, then let me say that we still have to complete a number of infrastructure projects, increase the power generation capacity, and complete the renewal of some public sector equipment. This is in addition to the reclamation of new land at an average which should not be less than 150,000 feddans a year, as well as housing projects. We pin great hopes on the ability of the private sector, which shoulders a huge part of the plan's burdens, to achieve a certain degree of progress and to increase the volume of its participation in the First 5-Year Plan.

[Ahmad] Mr President, one of the paradoxical results shown by a recent count is that there are 1.8 million vacant apartments in Egypt, while the housing crisis is crushing all community sectors.

[Mubarak] This figure surprised me just as it did everyone else. However, I asked myself: How many of these vacant apartments have been reserved for Egyptians working abroad who have spent their savings on an apartment awaiting their return? I asked myself once again: How many of these apartments have been reserved by some fathers for their sons? The figure as a whole does not reflect the entire truth. Therefore, I asked the Council of Ministers to study the issue in a more detailed manner. This is not to issue a resolution of seizure or something like that. Individual property is preserved by the letter of the Constitution. Our duty is to respect the Constitution in letter and spirit. I do not think that Egypt would benefit much by frightening those who seek to invest their money in housing projects. Those people contribute toward solving a part of a huge problem from which our community is suffering.

I asked the Council of Ministers for a more detailed study to find out the real reasons which are keeping these apartments vacant, despite the great demand for housing, and to find the appropriate solutions through a spirit of joint cooperation.

[Ahmad] Mr President, everyone expects prices to go up in July. Everyone also expects new decisions to increase wages. How much of the burden will be assumed by citizens and can the expected wage increase match the price increase?

[Mubarak] The July budget will not constitute any new burden on low-income people. Their ration cards will not be affected because we are committed to maintaining and subsidizing the prices of basic foodstuffs. The low-income people are looked after by the state. As for high-income people, their contribution should be commensurate with their income to ensure that there will be social justice and that the state can assume its burdens and obligations toward low-income people. Those who consume more than 1 kilowatt [figure as published] of electrical power must bear

a limited increase in the prices, and they have indeed borne such an increase.

Men of free professions such as doctors, engineers, and lawyers must bear a limited tax increase, which will be determined by the number of years they have been in practice. All those who have been in the profession for less than 3 years shall be exempt.

The real problem that we are facing is the merchants' tendency to overprice their goods as a result of an increase in the price of diesel oil, electricity, and other intermediary materials which only have a limited role in the final product. We have compensated the owners of bakeries for the increase in the price of diesel oil, yet they have increased the prices of certain types of bread. What I fear most is that merchants might seize the opportunity of a wage increase for government employees to increase their prices.

You asked me about price control. I say that we will tighten the price control on markets and increase the number of distribution kiosks and cooperative societies to ensure reasonable prices for citizens. The government is also carefully and quietly considering the problem of middlemen, who also contribute to higher prices. But all that is not enough. The consumers themselves must safeguard their rights. The consumer has a weapon more effective than all government weapons: He can refrain from buying. Certain consumers must also stop being snobbish and refrain from paying double prices for goods.

The 20 percent increase for government employees alone cost us 480 million pounds. This is an exorbitant sum and we expect to encounter problems with the IMF, which has advised us to reduce the quantity of money in circulation. But never mind, this is our country and we know its problems.

[Ahmad] Mr President, why were there conflicting reports about your trip to Washington? Are you planning a trip there soon with King Husayn, as the press has recently reported?

[Mubarak] There are no plans or even any ideas of this kind. The whole thing was made up. I still do not know the reason behind thisfabrication and the conflicting reports. Nevertheless, to keep everyone at rest, I will say that there is nothing in my program from now until the end of this year with regard to visits abroad, with the exception of attending the African summit to be held in Addis Ababa in July.

[Ahmad] Mr President, has there been any new development in the rescheduling of military debts to Washington?

[Mubarak] The U.S. Administration is now offering to reschedule our new military debts at current interest rates (7 percent). As for the old debts, they are still an unsolved problem. They argue that the debts and the interest on them should be rescheduled on the basis of old interest rates (15 percent) and we believe that to be an injustice we cannot bear. However, talks between us are still continuing.

[Ahmad] Mr President, when will the time be favorable for Egypt to reconsider its decision to close down the PLO offices? 'Arafat has asked several African and Arab leaders to mediate, the latest being Senegalese President Abdou Diouf. Perhaps you can excuse him, for he was subjected to a lot of pressure in Algiers.

[Mubarak] Had the matter been a personal one, I would have found excuses for 'Arafat. However, the matter is connected with a wave of slanderous fabrications against Egypt to which we must put a definite end so that no one will err in their calculations and judgments after that. I do not think that anything new has happened which warrants reconsidering our decision to close down the PLO offices.

Perhaps the new development that has occurred prompts us to say that it appears that some Palestinian leaders still do not know how to shoulder their responsibility. Three days ago Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] said that the Egyptian decision to close down the PLO offices was irresponsible. I do not think I will respond to his words.

I have explained the situation in full to the Senegalese president during his recent visit. I have explained the whole situation to the amir of Kuwait and to YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Everyone, including the PLO leaders, know the Egyptian decision to close down the PLO offices does not mean that there has been a change in Egypt's stand on the Palestinian question or in Egypt's stand on the PLO's right to represent its people.

Indeed, it is our clear commitment to the Palestinian question that prompted me recently to send a message to 'Arafat and to say to him: There has to be a bolder Palestinian step toward Resolution 242 so that we can foil those who want to exclude the PLO, and the only thing required is that the PLO conditionally recognizes thisresolution.

[Ahmad] Mr President, is there any hope that an international conference on peace in the Middle East will be convened before the end of the year?

[Mubarak] The Soviet Union is still enthusiastic about an international conference. The Americans do not object, but do not want to be a party to the differences between Peres and Shamir over such a conference. I think that the main problem now lies in the Israeli stand. However, I am confident that Peres has not yet lost his enthusiasm for the conference.

Perhaps a part of the problem also lies with the Arab side. The truth is that King Husayn is making sincere efforts on the Arab level to bring about a clear and well-defined Arab stand on the international conference. Nevertheless, I cannot be sure that the conference will convene before the end of this year, for the road is still a long one.

[Ahmad] Perhaps the possibility that such a stand will be achieved is enhanced by the increasing hope that an Arab summit will be held in Riyadh in September 1987. The Saudis believe that an Arab summit is now possible, thanks to the efforts being made by King Fahd to calm down inter-Arab differences.

[Mubarak] We hope so. However, I still have my doubts regarding the possibility of convening an Arab summit soon.

[Ahmad] Mr President, Egypt has strongly expressed its solidarity with the Gulf states with regard to preserving their security when you considered the security of the Gulf to be an extension of Egypt's security. How would this stand be translated into deeds and actions?

[Mubarak] Yes, Gulf security is a part of Egypt's security for perceivable Arab, geographic, economic, and security reasons. What worries us now are the attempts to internationalize the conflict and to make the Gulf an arena for a conflict involving the two superpowers — matters which would further jeopardize the Gulf's security. Hence, we have strongly expressed our solidarity with the Gulf states. The way in which this stand is to be translated into deeds and actions will be determined through discussions with our Gulf brethren.

[Ahmad] Mr President, has the Egyptian Government done anything for the sake of the Egyptians now imprisoned in Iran? Mr President, some people are now saying about 20,000 Egyptian POW's are there.

[Mubarak] The number is incorrect. It is much less than that. The Egyptians who were taken prisoner of war on the Iraqi warfront were working as volunteers. They were working in service units in the rear and not on the combat lines. A high percentage of them were working as drivers. Through contacts with Tehran arranged by a third party, we managed to find out the number of these POW's. We are continuing to carry out measures in this regard. Perhaps divulging secrets regarding these contacts would not serve our interests as we want to guarantee the safety of our POW's.

[Ahmad] Mr President, I am afraid that I have taken up too much of your time. However, a last question remains: Why have you chosen not to nominate yourself as chairman of the next African summit despite the enthusiasm shown by many African capitals to see Egypt heading the OAU?

[Mubarak] We were told that President Kenneth Kaunda intends to nominate himself for the post. Therefore, Egypt cannot but welcome Kaunda's chairmanship of the next African summit. President Kaunda is one of Africa's prominent and great leaders. He is a veteran struggler who has exerted every effort to support the continent's causes and issues. Furthermore, President Kaunda is a great friend whose friendship is a source of pride for Egypt. Egypt would be quite happy to do all it can to help Kaunda chair the African summit as this is a great honor to the African Continent.

Some people are now saying: Kaunda has never thought of nominating himself for the post, that he does not intend to nominate himself for that post, and that he supports Egypt's chairmanship of the African summit, especially since many other African states support Egypt's nomination for the post. Hence, I cannot but acquiesce to the desire of the fraternal African heads of state who appreciate and value Egypt's position. Indeed, we cannot but respond with gratitude and appreciation to this sincere African gesture taken toward Egypt. The Africans have supported us at times when the Arab brethren's support was not given. They have supported Egypt at all international forums and courageously resisted all attempts to isolate Egypt and to harm it. Who among us could forget Sekou Toure's role? Who among us could fail to appreciate Abdou Diouf's role? They have all been faithful friends to Egypt and to its historic role in the African liberation movement.

[Ahmad] Mr President, thank you for the time you have given to me and to *Al-Musawwar* magazine.

Mubarak, Sudanese Minister Discuss Relations

NC301525 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Ma'mun Sinadah, Sudanese minister of culture and information, at the Presidency in Heliopolis this afternoon. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif also attended the meeting.

Following their discussion, Minister Sinadah stated that he hadconveyed to President Mubarak greetings from Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the ministers.

He said that he and the president had discussed bilateral relations and ways to bolster them. He also informed President Mubarak that Sudanese officials are looking forward to visiting him and Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi.

Abu Ghazalah: Government 'Closely Monitoring' Gulf

NC301746 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] Alexandria, 30 Jun (MENA) — Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, has asserted that Egypt is closely monitoring developments in the Gulf, particularly those that may affect Egyptian security. He noted that all measures necessary to safeguard Egyptian national security against any eventuality have been taken.

Abu Ghazalah made these remarks to the press today, following ceremonies celebrating the graduation of the 15th group from the Air Defense Academy in Alexandria.

In his statement to the press, Abu Ghazalah disclosed that Egypt has obtained new Chaparral missiles, adding that the continuous development of equipment is designed to achieve efficient performance. He noted, for example, that the 24-mm gun has been supplied with new parts which makes it comparable to the most sophisticated types in the world. He added that very modern equipment has been incorporated into the Armed Forces training programs, including the (Blanche) training aircraft.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said that an authorization for the manufacture of this aircraft has been obtained. He also noted that an Egyptian officer has succeeded in building five ground-controlled aircraft similar to it.

Abu Ghazalah affirmed that all Egyptian military academies are experiencing a modern scientific and technological revolution based upon developing laboratories and utilizing ingenious training methods for graduate officers with high technical

abilities. In this regard, Abu Ghazalah pointed out that there are agreements with France for the purchase of sophisticated equipment, which will arrive in Egypt shortly and be announced in a timely manner.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah added that the Armed Forces now have the best military training institutes in the world. He revealed that military personnel will be sent on training missions abroad, once new equipment has been purchased, and then undertake training programs in Egypt. He added that military equipment needed for training purposes, including training and audio-visual aids, also will be purchased.

In conclusion, Abu Ghazalah said that the Armed Forces have obtained a squadron of aircraft supplied with special devices for fighting pollution and smuggling, according to the most sophisticated technological methods. This squadron, he added, belongs to the Air Force and carries out all missions required of it, such as monitoring ships that dump their waste in our territorial waters. Abu Ghazalah noted that joint control and information centers will be established to protect our territorial waters against various types of pollution and smuggling.

'Abd al-Majid Receives 'Arafat's Adviser

NC301241 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1222 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jun (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received Hani al-Hasan, political adviser of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The talks dealt with the relations between Egypt and the PLO and the efforts being made to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Middle East crisis.

Al-Baz Returns With King Husayn Message

NC301517 Cario MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jun (MENA) — Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, returned to Cairo from Amman this afternoon following a 1-day visit during which he delivered a message from President Husni Mubarak to King Husayn of Jordan.

Upon arrival, Dr al-Baz disclosed that he is carrying a handwritten message from King Husayn to President Mubarak.

Dr al-Baz said that King Husayn had expressed his pleasure and appreciation for the fraternal relations between him and his brother, President Mubarak, as well as his satisfaction with the continuous Egyptian-Jordanian consultations on various levels dealing with issues that concern both countries and the Arab nation.

Dr al-Baz noted that King Husayn will depart for Baghdad today to meet with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, with whom he will hold talks on the Gulf war, threats to navigation in the Gulf, and contacts between Syria and Iraq.

Concluding, Dr al-Baz said that the current discussions which Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, is holding in Cairo revolve around peace efforts, the possibility of holding an international conference, and the PLO's stand on the initiatives proposed to enhance the possibilities of convening such a conference.

Agreement to Buy 250,000 Tons of Coal From USSR

NC301338 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jun (MENA) — An agreement has been concluded with the USSR by which it will export 250,000 tons of coal, costing approximately $20 million, to Egypt. The goal will be used by the Al-Nasr Company, which produces coke and basic chemicals.

Eng 'Adil al-Mawzi, the Al-Nasr Company chairman, stated that the delivery of the coal will take place between the beginning of July and the end of December. He added that it had also been agreed that the USSR will supply spare parts for some of the company's coke production units [battariyyat al-fahm], at a cost of 20 million pounds sterling.

An Egyptian industrial delegation led by the Al-Nasr Company president returned from a 10-day visit to Moscow today. During their visit, the delegation members held talks with Soviet officials on the aforesaid agreement and on the construction of a fourth production unit at the company. The USSR has agreed to contribute toward the unit's construction, thus increasing the company's annual output from 1 to 1.5 million tons.

KUWAIT

Interior Minister on Domestic Security Situation
LD301828 Kuwait KUNA in English 1738 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] London, June 30 (KUNA) — Interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad reaffirmed Wednesday the integrity of the Kuwaiti judiciary and warned that severe punishment will be executed against all those who try to undermine Kuwait's security and stability.

In a statement to *Al-Majallah* magazine, to be published here tomorrow, he expressed confidence in the security apparatus, ability to check anyone, noting that there is no bargaining on Kuwait security.

In reply to a question, he said latest incidents in Kuwait reflected positively on the citizens' security awareness, noting that the citizens are now more cooperative with the securitymen.

On reaction to the latest verdicts he said ordinary citizens are confident in integrity of the judiciary noting the latest verdicts were received with satisfaction by the public.

Asked whether the Kuwaiti Government has adopted new security measures following the [words indistinct] fires last month in gas storage tanks, he denied the presence of any new security measures, noting that Kuwait pursues a well planned security strategy for the prevention of crimes.

Shaykh Nawwaf underlined that some foreign news media are drawing an unrealistic image on the security situation in Kuwait through exaggerating the security incidents.

'Accidental' Explosion Outside U.S. Embassy
LD302223 Kuwait KUNA in English 1900 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] Kuwait, June 30 (KUNA) — A gas-cylinder explosion took place earlier Tuesday evening in the U.S. Embassy vicinity while construction workers were loading a truck with some equipment but caused no injuries, an embassy spokesman said.

The spokesman told *Kuwait News Agency* that the incident "was not a terrorist action".

The spokesman said the explosion took place at 5:30 p.m. (local time) and that the embassy officials called the fire department which rushed instantly to the scene and extinguished the fire.

"Also several high-ranking police officers came to the embassy and carried out investigations very very quickly...also a Kuwaiti bomb-disposal team came to the embassy and conducted an investigation and they determined it was an accidental explosion", the spokesman asserted.

"There was no injury in the incident and the explosion was an accidental one, not an act of terrorism," he said.

Morocco, Mauritania, Support Foreign Tanker Use
LD301947 Kuwait KUNA in English 1840 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] Kuwait, June 30 (KUNA) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Khalid Ahmad al-Jasir said here Wednesday [day as received] that King Hassan II of Morocco and Mauritanian President Maaouya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya expressed support to Kuwait's latest steps to charter foreign oil tankers to preserve its national economy.

Al-Jasir was speaking to KUNA following a tour of Morocco and Mauritania during which he delivered messages from H.H. the Amir of Kuwait to the leader of these countries.

During the tour Al-Jasir said he explained to the Arab leaders the steps taken by Kuwait to protect its oil tankers.

Oil Minister Says Kuwait to Observe New Quota
LD302327 Kuwait KUNA in English 1756 GMT 30 Jun 87

[By Shamel Hairy]

[Text] Kuwait, June 30 (KUNA) — Kuwait's oil production quota will increase by 51,000 barrels per day to reach 0.999 million barrels per day, Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Adbi al-Sabah stated Tuesday.

The official told newsmen on return this evening from Vienna, where (?he took part in the) [word indistinct] ministers which concluded in the Austrian capital last Sunday, that the new quota is operable from the first of coming July until the end of this year under the recent OPEC ministers' resolution.

Shaykh 'Ali asserted that though the quota is not fair enough for Kuwait, yet his country would stick to it.

The 13-member organization was resolved to keep their crude production during the second half of this year to 16.6 million bpd, up by 0.8 million bpd than the production level of the second quarter of current year, and to maintain the official price of U.S. dollar 18 per barrel.

The new arrangement replaces an OPEC agreement in Geneva last December to maintain an overall production ceiling of 15.8 million bpd during the second quarter of this year, which will be raised to [word indistinct] million bpd during the third and further to 18.3 millions during the last quarter.

Shaykh 'Ali denied Kuwait has maintained an obstinate stand on modifying the December accord in respect of the organisation's production during the last quarter of 1987, adding that Kuwait's stance has been 'cooperative and more fitting with the realities.'

Kuwait, he explained, had proposed that OPEC's production for the fourth quarter be difference [as received] than that of the third quarter because the December accord figure of 18.3 million bpd may prove too modest compared to world demand projections on OPEC crude, the official indicated.

"I suggested a flexible ceiling for the organisation's production," Shaykh 'Ali stated, "that would be lowered in case of a drop in world crude prices or in case prices soared above the official level."

He concluded by criticising the Vienna OPEC conference's failure to discuss the chronic issue of crude price differentials, describing the question as important and in the interest of dhe organisation to resolve at the earliest.

Countries Support Kuwait in War Settlement Efforts

LD302036 Kuwait KUNA in English 1923 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] Kuwait, June 30 (KUNA) — Leaders of North Yemen, Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen, Djibouti and Somalia Tuesday commended Kuwait's efforts in finding a settlement to the Iraq-Iran war.

Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs Dari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman told KUNA, following a tour of these countries during which he delivered messages from H.H. the Amir of Kuwait, that the leaders of these countries voiced support to Kuwait's steps to protect its national interests.

SAUDI ARABIA

Algerian Military Delegation Departs Jeddah

LD301431 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2040 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 29 Jun (SPA) — Brigadier General Khalid Nizar, deputy chief of staff and commander of the land forces of the Algerian People's National Army, and his accompanying delegation left Jeddah this evening at the conclusion of a visit of several days to the Kingdom. During the visit, he met with Defense and Aviation Ministry officials and visited some sectors of the Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

Diplomatic Relations Established With Brunei

LD010829 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0350 GMT 1 Jul 87

[Text] Riyadh [no date as received] — Desiring to consolidate their bonds of fraternity and to strengthen the links of friendship and cooperation, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Brunei have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the embassy level.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Minister of State Returns From SFRY Visit

JN302017 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1836 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 29 Jun (WAKH) — Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, and his accompanying delegation returned to Abu Dhabi from Belgrade this evening following an official 4-day visit to the SFRY. This was the first of its kind by a UAE official since diplomatic relations were established between the two countries on 15 November 1986.

In a statement to WAM after his return home, 'Abdallah described the results of the visit as positive. During his stay, he said, he had had fruitful talks with senior SFRY officials headed by SFRY President Lazar Mojsov and Raif Dizdarevic, federal secretary for foreign affairs, during which they reviewed the latest developments in the Gulf and Middle East regions, as well as bilateral relations.

He also said that there was agreement during the talks on efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war. He pointed out that the two countries' views were in agreement on the need to end the Iraq-Iran war and to call for an international conference for peace in the Middle East,as well as activating and supporting the role of nonaligned states in achieving world peace and security. Concerning relations between the two countries, he explained that ways to enhance these relations in various fields were discussed.

Prior to his visit to the SFRY, Rashid 'Abdallah led the GCC delegation to the ministerial meeting with the EC states held in Brussels last Tuesday.

Reports From Gulf War Battlefronts Continue

Sayyid Sadiq Fighting Denied

JN301454 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jun (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims of fighting in the Sayyid Sadiq area. The spokesman told INA a short while ago that journalists will visit the area to become acquainted with the situation there, thus totally refuting the Iranian claims and lies which are well-known to world public opinion.

'Devastating Raids' Launched

JN301544 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1520 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jun (INA) — The Iraqi Al-Mu'tasim Forces destroyed two regiments from the charlatan Khomeyni Guards and one infantry company in a series of devastating raids launched on the night of 28 June in the northern sector of the operations area. The Iraqi forces also wounded the commander of the Iranian force, as well as another 16 men from his unit. This came in a statement to INA by an Iraqi military spokesman who said that the two destroyed regiments were the Zanjan Guard Regiment and the Esfahan Guard Regiment.

Communique No 2,727 Issued

JN301745 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Communique No 2,727 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 30 June 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious Armed Forces have continued to protect the homeland and to defend its sanctity and the dignity of its people, inflicting large massacres on the enemies of God and humanity — the Khomeyniites, the slaves of Zionism, and the merchants of war and sedition.

Through their combat activities, the brave Armed Forces affirm Iraq's strength and ability to smash the aggressors and inflict heavy losses on their ranks.

The following is a roundup of activities for last night and today:

1. In a series of daring storming operations carried out by the valiant Al-Mu'tasim Forces in the I Army Corps northern sector, our brave men stormed the enemy positions and annihilated two regiments from the charlatan Khomeyni guards — the Zanjan Guard Regiment and the Esfahan Guard Regiment. Our brave men also annihilated an infantry platoon in another area and inflicted the following losses on the enemy:

They attacked a 15-man patrol and killed most of its personnel, destroyed a vehicle loaded with personnel and two bulldozers, and blew up three ammunition dumps and one observation post. God bless the tough men of the brave Al-Mu'tasim Forces — commanders, officers, and soldiers. Praise be to God for his victory.

2. With the well-known efficiency of our brave hawks, our heroic Air Force continued their operations against the enemy units today, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy's scoundrels, weapons, and hardware in 56 combat missions. Our aircraft then returned safely to base in the homeland. Praise be to God.

3. The helicopter gunship knights play their heroic role with rare bravery, splendid performance, and high accuracy in attacking enemy targets and giving efficient support to our ground units while harvesting the aggressors' remnants. Our knights today carried out 109 combat sorties in which they inflicted heavy losses on the enemy scoundrels, weapons, positions, and vehicles. After carrying out all these missions, the lofty knights returned safely and victoriously to base in God's care and protection.

4. A brave force from our units in the VII Army Corps sector carried out a successful raid on the enemy positions. With efficient support from our artillery and armored units, the force destroyed a number of enemy machinegun emplacements and killed a number of scoundrels manning them. Other enemy positions were also destroyed. The force then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

In the same sector, five enemy scoundrels were killed and wounded and one medium-caliber machinegun, one 106-mm mortar, and two ammunition dumps were destroyed.

5. Our valiant formations in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah attacked enemy positions, assembly points, and engineering works, inflicting heavy losses. In other areas of the same sector, 1 armored personnel carrier was destroyed, 17 enemy scoundrels were killed, and 2 ammunition dumps and 2 infantry positions were destroyed.

6. Our brave men in the II Army Corps central sector destroyed 3 enemy observation posts and 2 infantry positions and killed 13 enemy scoundrels.

7. In the sector of the Special I Army Corps — the Allahu Akbar Forces — one 106-mm gun was destroyed.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 30 June 1987

'Large Maritime Target' Struck

JN010958 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0948 GMT 1 Jul 87

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Jul (INA) — Iraqi warplanes raided a large maritime target near the Iranian coast at 1035 today [0635 GMT]. An Iraqi military spokesman said a short while ago that the Iraqi Air Force planes dealt the maritime target an effective, accurate blow and returned safely to base.

Admiral on Iranian Losses

JN301300 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jun (INA) — The staff rear admiral of the Iraqi Navy and coastal force has stressed that the Iraqi Navy foiled more than 30 Iranian offensives against Al-'Amiq Port and sank 300 enemy boats between 5 January and 15 May 1987.

In a statement to the newspaper *Al-Qadisiyah* — which specializes in military affairs — published here today on the golden jubilee of the Iraqi Navy, the rear admiral said that the Iraqi Navy had destroyed no less than 25 enemy boats and naval units of the Iranian regime's fleet in April. He pointed out that the Iranian enemy's losses during the past 3 months were 70 small armed boats.

The rear admiral affirmed that the piracy which the Iranian fleet has been practicing since 1984 in the Arab Gulf is an attempt to avoid confrontation with the Iraqi fleet. He said that these practices are in violation of international laws and norms which guarantee freedom of navigation in international passageways, particularly in the Strait of Hormuz.

The rear admiral pointed out that the Iranian regime's piracy in the Arab Gulf is the main and direct cause of the deteriorating situation in this area and of the presence of foreign fleets there.

Concluding, the rear admiral stressed that the Iraqi Navy is developing and that if Iran continues with its aggressive adventures against Iraq it will face deterrent Iraqi measures which will make the Iranian rulers regret their actions.

Talks With Jordan's King Husayn Continue

King Welcomed 30 Jun

JN301448 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1427 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jun (INA) — Jordan's King Husayn has arrived in Baghdad on an official visit to Iraq. His majesty was accorded an official reception with President Saddam Husayn leading the welcoming party. Also present were Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member, first deputy prime minister, and foreign minister; Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister; Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and National Assembly speaker; Ahmad Husayn, head of the presidential office; the ministers; the president's secretary; and Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Talib, chief of staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces; and the accompanying delegation.

President Saddam Husayn and his brother, His Majesty King Husayn, held a round of official talks on the strong fraternal relations between the two sister countries and on Iraq's ability to deter and smash the rancorous Iranian aggression. The talks also dealt with the Arab situation in general.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by RCC members Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister; Ahmad Husayn, head of the presidential office; the president's secretary; and Iraq's ambassador in Amman.

On behalf of Jordan they were attended by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, and Jordan's ambassador in Baghdad.

President Saddam Husayn hosted a luncheon in honor of his brother, His Majesty King Husayn, and the members of both sides in the talks.

2d Round of Talks Held

JN301548 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] Baghdad — His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn held a second round of talks this afternoon. The discussion dealt with developments in the Iraq-Iran war, as well as with the Iraqi Armed Forces' capable defense of Iraq and the Arab nation and its stand against the Iranian aggression. His Majesty King Husayn was reassured about the soundness of the military situation and the Iraqi fighters' high morale.

The two leaders reviewed the efforts being made to halt the Iraq-Iran war and Iraq's response to these efforts. Talks also dealt with Arab issues of mutual interest, developments in both Arab and international arenas, and the distinguished relations between the two fraternal countries.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, and Jordan's ambassador to Iraq, Hilmi al-Lawzi.

They were attended on the Iraqi side by RCC members Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; Ahmad Husayn, head of the presidential office; the president's secretary; and the Iraqi ambassador to Jordan.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn hosted a grand luncheon at noon today in honor of His Majesty King Husayn. It was attended by members of the Jordanian and Iraqi delegations.

King Ends Visit, Departs

JN301816 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan has left Baghdad at the end of a 1-day visit to Iraq. President Saddam Husayn led those who bid his majesty farewell. Also present were Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister; Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister; Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and National Assembly speaker; Muhammad Hamzah, transportation and communications minister; Samir Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab, minister of higher education and scientific research; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; Ahmad Husayn, head of the presidential office; the president's secretary; the Iraqi ambassador to Amman; and the Jordanian ambassador to Baghdad.

Saddam Husayn Receives Jordanian Chief of Staff

JN301459 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1425 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jun (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has received Staff Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Talib, chief of staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces, on the occasion of his visit to Iraq at the head of an official delegation. The meeting was attended by the president's secretary and the chief of staff of the Iraqi Army.

Talks With Visiting Nicaraguan Delegation Begin

JN301403 Baghdad INA in English 1352 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] Baghdad, June 30, INA — Official talks began here today between Iraq and Nicaragua.

The Iraqi side is led by member of the Revolution Command Council and vice-president Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf and the Nicaraguan side by Mr. Sergio Ramirez Mercado, Nicaragua's vice-president.

Mr. Ma'ruf briefed the Nicaraguan delegation on the developments of the Iraq-Iran war and Iraq's positive stands vis-a-vis international efforts to end the conflict.

The talks are also dealing with means for promoting bilateral relations between the two countries and international issues of common interests.

Further on 'Official Talks'

JN301759 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] Official talks between Iraq and Nicaragua began in Baghdad today. The Iraqi side is led by Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president, and the Nicaraguan side is led by Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado.

In a speech at the beginning of the talks, Ma'ruf reviewed developments in the Iraq-Iran war, Iraq's positive stands on international and regional efforts to end it and to resolve the dispute between the two countries through peaceful means, and the Zionist Iranian regime's rejection of these efforts and its insistence on continuing the war, thus threatening regional security.

Ma'ruf affirmed that the United Nations can play a key role in ending the war and achieving an overall peace by issuing a binding resolution to guarantee these objectives.

Sergio Ramirez Mercado expressed his country's appreciation for Iraq's peaceful course and its leadership's positive stands on efforts to end the war. He praised the five principles to achieve a just and overall peace included in President Saddam Husayn's letter to the Iranian rulers. He added that Nicaragua supports all peace initiatives and looks with interest at the draft resolution on the Iraq-Iran war being discussed at the UN Security Council.

The talks also dealt with ways to promote bilateral relations. The two sides exchanged opinions on Arab and international issues of mutual interest, particularly the Iraq-Iran war and the situation in Nicaragua.

Minister Leaves for ICO Meeting in Turkey

JN260817 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0652 GMT 26 Jun 87

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jun (INA) — Industry Minister Hatim 'Abd al-Rashid left Baghdad for Turkey today to participate in the third ICO ministerial meeting for industrial cooperation to be held there tomorrow.

In a statement to INA, the minister said that there will be a discussion of ways to encourage projects and promote joint investment companies, as well as cooperation among production centers, and a follow-up of the implementation of the resolutions and recommendations adopted by previous conferences.

Minister Weizman Denies Invitation to Moscow

TA010410 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0405 GMT 1 Jul 87

[Text] Minister Without Portfolio 'Ezer Weizman has denied that he has been invited to Moscow. He expressed surprise at the report carried last night by Israel Television. Weizman told reporters he would readily go to the Soviet Union if invited.

Shamir Discusses Relations With USSR, Soviet Jewry

TA300940 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Jun 87 p 5

["Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was interviewed recently by *Forum, the newsletter of the Israel Public Council for Soviet Jewry*" — *The Jerusalem Post* subslug]

[Excerpt] Question: How do you see the role of Israel and the Israeli Government in the fight for the emigration of Soviet Jewry?

Shamir: Their roles must be a central and leading one. The Israeli Government must form the policy, the Israeli public must be leaders of the campaign, and the Jewish population worldwide must strengthen the awareness in the world at large of what is going on, and must provide the impetus and the strength necessary for the struggle. In order for the campaign to be convincing and influential, we must always be able to show that our efforts to absorb Soviet Jews who arrive in Israel are efficient and effective.

Question: Where does the question of Soviet Jewish aliya (emigration to Israel) stand in talks and contacts between the Soviet Union and Israel?

Shamir: Of course the Israel Government raises this question in every contact that it has with Soviet representatives, and the problem of Soviet Jewry is one of the two central problems which are raised in diplomatic contacts, between us and the Soviet Union, the other one being the situation in the Middle East. In my opinion these two issues must go hand in hand; that at least is how I dealt with them in the two meetings I had with Gromyko while he was Soviet foreign minister.

Question: Do you see any improvement in relations between the Soviet Union and Israel since Gorbachev declared his policy of glasnost?

Shamir: Unfortunately I can see no improvement to date. I discern greater interest on the part of the Soviet Government, but no real improvement, neither on the question of the situation of Soviet Jews who want to leave the Soviet Union and emigrate to Israel, nor where the question of diplomatic ties with Israel are concerned.

Question: Do you believe that the resumption of diplomatic ties between Israel and the Soviet Union can help solve the problem of Soviet Jewry?

Shamir: Maybe but not necessarily. We have past experience of diplomatic relations with the USSR. There was a long period when we had diplomatic relations — from the creation of the State of Israel until 1967 — and there was no positive improvement on the question of aliya of Soviet Jews during that period.

Question: Clause 30 of the new Soviet regulations on movement to and from the Soviet Union allows for the widening of emigration from the narrow basis of "reunification with first-degree family" if "bi-lateral agreements" are reached between the USSR and other countries. Leading refuseniks have urged you to reach such an agrement with the Soviet Government. Do you see an agreement of this kind as a possible solution to the problem of Soviet Jewish emigration?

Shamir: Such an agreement can offer the Soviets an opening for a solution within the framework of their new regulations, it can help them create a legitimation for the emigration of Soviet Jews in addition to the framework of family reunification. The IsraeliGovernment should work for such an agreement in all contacts with the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

Peres on Ties With PRC, Reported Soviet Invitation

TA010918 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 1 Jul 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that there is a continual, gradual development of relations with the PRC. Although no dramatic ties exist at the moment, we do have scientific, commercial, and agricultural relations. Israel is interested in establishing diplomatic relations with the PRC without any preconditions.

Replying to an interpellation by Knesset Member [MK] David Magen, the foreign minister said that he had asked the FRG chancellor, who is scheduled to visit Beijing next week, to discuss relations with Israel with the Chinese.

The foreign minister affirmed that he knows nothing of an invitation to Minister Weizman or any other minister to visit the Soviet Union. MK David Magen asked Mr Peres whether he had met with King Husayn or an envoy on his behalf during his stay in Switzerland, leading to Amman's announcement yesterday that the international conference would not have power to impose an arrangement. Mr Peres replied that he is not the Jordanian monarch's speech writer and that the announcement was made entirely at the behest of the king. Our Knesset correspondent points out that Mr Peres did not give a straight answer to the question of whether he had met with a Jordanian representative in Switzerland and notes that he did not deny this.

Comments on PRC Readiness

TA011120 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 1 Jul 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says China has indicated it is prepared to establish diplomatic relations with Israel even before the opening of an international conference on the Middle

East, but provided there is progress toward peace. Peres was answering a question in the Knesset this morning from the Likud's David Magen about reported contacts between Israeli and Chinese representatives. From the Knesset, Jack Katzenell:

Foreign Minister Peres said he is not prepared to disclose things that have not been published so far, but he did say China has a pragmatic attitude to an international conference and is prepared to go along with any format acceptable to Israel and the Arabs, including the bilateral commissions about which Peres has been negotiating. China does not see the establishment of diplomatic relations as an obstacle to her participation in the proposed international conference, Peres said. This means, in our view, that China accepts as natural the expectation that progress toward peace, on the one hand, and her participation in the peace process, on the other, will lead to the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel even before the conference is convened. Peres quoted a Chinese diplomat who was invited to the recent meeting in Paris of the Socialist International's Middle East Commission, a body on which Israel is represented. The Chinese official said in the framework of the preparations for an international conference a solution should be found also for this matter, meaning diplomatic relations with Israel. Although we have at present no diplomatic relations with Israel, the Chinese diplomat continued, we have relations with her in the fields of science, industry, and agriculture.

AL-AKHBAR Interviews Peres on Peace Conference

NC291105 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jun (MENA) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has emphasized that we, the Arabs and Israelis, must resolve our future without any foreign intervention, noting that the international conference on peace in the Middle East could be held in Cairo, Paris, or Geneva.

In an exclusive interview with Cairo's *Al-Akhbar* newspaper, scheduled for publication on Tuesday, 30 June, Peres noted that he is waiting for the outcome of the U.S.-Soviet meeting in July, which will concentrate on various aspects of the international conference.

Peres emphasized that there is no objection to the participation of any Palestinian in the negotiations, even if he represents 'Arafat's ideas, provided that the Palestinian is not a PLO member and does not call for the destruction of Israel.

Peres noted that all parties concerned in the Middle East, including Egypt, agree on the nature of the international conference. However, he added, we have to await the outcome of the U.S.-Soviet meeting next month.

Peres explained that there is no written agreement regarding the international conference, but that there is an agreement on its nature; namely, that it will not have the authority to impose solutions. He said the true and direct negotiations will be undertaken by three or four separate and bilateral geographic groups, noting that the importance of the international conference lies in the fact that it gives negotiating legitimacy to the parties concerned.

To a question about Israel's wish not to allow the conference to have any authority, which may mean Israel is not convinced of the conference in principle, Peres replied: We did not seek to hold an international conference, the Jordanians did. We accepted so that the Palestinians and Jordanians could take part in the negotiations.

The Israeli foreign minister asserted that Egypt and Jordan, as well as Israel, will not accept the Russians and the Americans making a decision on their behalf because it is a matter of sovereignty. He added: We do not want the permanent members of the UN Security Council to negotiate on our behalf.

Responding to a question on Israel's conception of how the conference will be held, Peres said that once there is agreement on the nature of the conference, agreement on which parties will participate and which issues will be discussed must follow. After this, but within 3 months, the UN secretary general can extend invitations to the conference, along with an appeal to the parties concerned to resolve their conflicts peacefully and to solve all aspects of the Palestinian issues.

Asked how an agreement was reached with King Husayn of Jordan, Peres said that the Americans had played the role of carrier pigeon between Jordan and Israel, noting that communications have still not stopped.

In his interview Peres also touched on Israel's stand on the international conference. He said that the situation in Israel does not allow it to mount the horse of peace at present. Therefore, he added, we want to change this situation. If we can reach an agreement with the Likud, which is likely, we will be ready to talk of peace, as was the case with the Tabah issue. However, if Likud's stand does not change, the only alternative will be to ask the people to agree on early elections.

On 'Arafat's participation in the international peace conference, Peres said: If there were someone with 'Arafat's mentality, provided that he did not belong to a terrorist organization, we would have nothing against him. We want men who negotiate rather than try to destroy Israel. However, 'Arafat does not want to change, and even if he changes, it would be enough that he is 'Arafat.

Responding to another question on whether Israel will accept the inclusion of the Jerusalem issue in the conference, Peres said: Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. However, everyone has the right to propose what he wants.

Touching on the issue of Dayr al-Sultan, the Israeli foreign minister pointed out that Israel has problems at the moment with the Ethiopians staying in the monastery, but is looking for a solution, adding: We want you to try with the Ethiopians, and if you reach a solution, we will accept it at once. He concluded: I know that the monastery belongs to the Egyptian church.

LE FIGARO Interviews Peres

PM301056 Paris LE FIGARO in French 26 Jun 87 p 2

[Interview with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Jacques Jacquet-Francillon in Paris on 25 June]

[Text] [Jacquet-Francillon] Pope John Paul II had a meeting at the Vatican on Thursday with Kurt Waldheim, a head of state who, after all, was elected by a democratic process which no one can dispute. This gesture by the holy father has sparked off strong reactions in the world, from the top dignitaries of the Catholic Church in France, among others. I would like to know your personal feelings about this event and, in general, about what is known as the "Waldheim affair."

[Peres] It is important to draw a distinction between official titles and the individual man. The problem is not the fact that he is head of state but who Mr Waldheim is.

There was a degree of trust in Mr Waldheim when he was UN secretary general. He has now published memoirs in which there is a 2 year gap — a period during which he served the Nazis. When he is questioned about this gap, he replies that those 2 years have no "literary value...." The impression is that he is not a courageous or honest man. Of course, we would like to live in the future... but this does not enable us to forget the past. It is a horrible past. Mr Waldheim may become the most important symbol of this unbelievable past.

As you know, we do not have diplomatic relations with the Vatican. It is rather strange that the Pope — a man with so much experience — should have failed to establish diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Israel.

[Jacquet-Francillon] On 9 October, the day before you were due to change from prime minister to foreign minister, you granted an interview to *Le Figaro*.

I asked you then what you thought about the possibility of an international Near East peace conference. At the time you told me: "We have no need for an international conference; we prefer direct negotiations. For a marriage you just need a man and a woman, you do not need five mothers-in-law."

You seem to have changed your mind since then and this is placing you in conflict with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

Can you explain to me what led you to change your view and why you now seem ready to live with "five mothers-in-law"?

[Peres] My position is not new. When I was prime minister, I said the same thing, that we do not need an international conference. It is the Arabs who need one. To make peace with the Arabs, we need participation by the Arabs, particularly the Jordanians.

We must now make a clear distinction between two types of international conferences: If it is an international conference which would have the power to impose a solution, I am opposed to it. But, if it is an international conference which seeks to open direct negotiations among the states in the region, then I am in favor of it.

At the moment, we are nearing a situation in which the Jordanians, the Americans, and the British — and I think the French too — are in favor of an international conference which would facilitate direct negotiations, but without any power to impose a solution. That was my position when I was prime minister. I said that to the United Nations and to our parliament on four occasions. I will continue to pursue exactly the same policy.

[Jacquet-Francillon] You have just mentioned Jordan. It has just pledged to the United States and to Israel to take part in an international conference from which the PLO would be excluded. Do you think this is a major positive gesture?

[Peres] Yes, I think the Jordanians are stressing that the Palestinian problem should be settled with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. I think there is now a good chance of the Jordanians finding responsible Palestinian leaders. There are leaders on the West Bank and in Gaza who are prepared, with the Jordanians, to negotiate directly with us.

[Jacquet-Francillon] Contacts were recently reestablished between Damascus and Cairo. Do you expect a positive change in the Syrian position in the Israeli-Arab conflict?

[Peres] In my view, there is at present no real change in the Syrian stance. I think relations between the Syrians and Egyptians are still fairly cold. On the other hand, there is a degree of rapprochement between the Jordanians and Syrians and that may be why the Syrians accept that the Jordanians should try and open negotiations with Israel.

[Jacquet-Francillon] Since your historic meeting with Hassan II last year, have you maintained contact with the Moroccan king? Have these contacts proved encouraging?

[Peres] Yes, I think these meetings have helped to create a different climate in the Near East, because King Hassan II is not seeking something tangible for himself. He is trying to establish a climate which would enable serious negotiations to be held among the different sides and we are maintaining our contact with him to achieve the same goal.

The result is that despite all the fuss about contacts between the Jordanians and us today, reactions in the Arab world are still fairly moderate. The Arabs have not expressed much criticism about this. This shows that there may be a good chance of achieving peace.

[Jacquet-Francillon] You are openly in favor of dissolving the Knesset and prompting some kind of people's referendum on your peace plan, although, if I am not mistaken, you do not have the constitutional power to do this.

Can you tell me what you plan to do and how, as we say in France, you can "cohabit" with a government chief who says "no" to virtually everything you propose?

[Peres] Our "cohabitation" is rather different than yours. In your country the division is between the Elysee and the Hotel Matignon. In our country, we have a government in which each party has five members.

If my party cannot secure a majority, we will have to turn to the people: This is the only solution in a democratic country. In other words, if we can find a majority, we must have a referendum, because I am seeking peace more than power. The situation in the Knesset is not clear at present. We must wait.

[Jacquet-Francillon] The war between Iran and Iraq has been going on for almost 8 years now; what possible solution do you see to this conflict? What do you think of the superpowers' present attitude to the effects of this war; what role do you think the superpowers should play; what role should the United States, the Soviet Union, and also France play?

[Peres] The problem with the superpowers is not their status. The problem is: Can the superpowers reach an agreement?

Being a superpower does not help much if you remain in conflict. In fact, I think there are disagreements between the superpowers on the Iran-Iraq problem. The Russians clearly support the Iraqi position, while the Americans are very cautious and will not try to intervene in the conflict itself, other than to ensure freedom of navigation in the Gulf.

Moreover, I do not think the conflict between the warring sides will be decided on the front, but in one of the two countries, as a result of changes in the internal situation. This depends on individuals and coalitions. If there is a change in the coalitions — this could happen, for example, if the Syrians decided to move closer to the Iraqis instead of supporting the Iranians — that would greatly change the general situation.

[Jacquet-Francillon] Do you think Syria could do that? Could it happen in the near future?

[Peres] No, because the Syrians have gained a great deal from the game they are playing. One day, they take a step toward the Iraqis and the Iranians pay. Another day, they take a step toward the Iranians and the Iraqis pay. This is not a bad thing for the time being!

[Jacquet-Francillon] Your government has just granted a visa for a Soviet consular delegation which should shortly be established in your country. What do you expect this to achieve? Do you think Mr Gorbachev is prepared to grant a substantial number of additional exit visas for Soviet Jews?

[Peres] So far the Russians have announced that this delegation's sole aim is to solve problems relating to Soviet property. It is a capitalist approach by a socialist country. I accepted that.

With regard to the Jewish question, there is a difference between what the Soviets say and the real situation. At present the situation has been improved slightly, but it is not exactly what we could have expected. This attitude is prompting us to wait....

[Jacquet-Francillon] Have you been disappointed by Mr Gorbachev to some extent?

[Peres] Yes, precisely.

[Jacquet-Francillon] What do you expect your current visit to Paris to achieve?

[Peres] If there is to be an international Near East conference, the position of three Western countries is important — the United States, Britain, and France. The United States has clearly stated that it will support the principle of an international conference which would not have the power to impose direct negotiations among the countries concerned. Britain has adopted a similar attitude.

I have come to France to seek the same thing and I am sure I will succeed.

'Sources' List Rabin Questions for U.S. on Lavi

TA300840 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Jun 87 pp 1, 2

[Report by Joshua Brilliant and Elaine Ruth Fletcher]

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday brushed off contentions that the Reagan administration would try to offer Israel a financial "carrot" for cancelling the Lavi project during his trip to Washington.

Rabin was scheduled to leave for the U.S. late last night, apparently moving up his departure date by several days, following a heated government debate over whether to terminate the Lavi's development or move ahead with production.

Rabin spoke to reporters following the Israel Defence Prize ceremony. At the ceremony, President Hayim Herzog pleaded for a decision on the aircraft free of party or political considerations.

Rabin said he was going to the U.S. to get a "tentative" idea of what the American response would be to a government decision either to cancel or to go ahead with the Lavi — "as data for the government decision."

As to whether Washington would try to pressure him into dropping the project, Rabin said: "I'm not convinced they distribute carrots in America."

"The decision on its fate is in the hands of Israel, and the Government of Israel is the one that will decide," said Rabin.

In Tel Aviv, Prime Minister Shamir echoed Rabin's remarks, saying, "The U.S. administration is not pressuring us...the decision was and will be Israel's only."

"I don't commit myself, and I am not authorized by the government to take one position or another in my discussions in the United States," Rabin also remarked.

Rabin also suggested that he wanted to obtain firsthand information on the implication of the decision, in order to avoid the political backlash that would invariably follow.

"To whom will they come when they have to investigate...to the defence establishment," said Rabin. "I want to be convinced that I have in my hands the best and the most comprehensive data."

Rabin's comments follow charges on Sunday by Minister-Without-Portfolio 'Ezer Weizman that the defence minister's failure to take a commanding role in the Lavi decision has caused bad blood among senior IDF commanders who are divided over whether to move ahead with the project.

One senior defence source said he feared that while the Reagan administration would now offer certain financial incentives for cancelling the Lavi, Reagan's successor would not necessarily honour those commitments.

The budget-minded Congress, meanwhile, hasn't added a dollar to the administration's military aid budget for Israel of the last three years, another source noted.

Sources said that Rabin, during his trip, will ask Washington the following questions about the implications of cancelling the Lavi project:

— Will Israel's current $1.8 billion in annual military aid be maintained or reduced?

— Will the $300 million in U.S. aid that can be transferred to shekels and spent on locally-manufactured goods remain constant — thus offsetting some of the unemployment caused by cancellation of the Lavi?

— Will the $150m. that now can be spent on Israeli-manufactured accessories for U.S.-made products remain intact?

— Will Israel's participation in development of the new U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative (Star Wars) system be increased?

— Will Washington help Israel cover costs incurred if the project is stopped, estimated at $400m. to $700m.?

Washington has paid hundreds of millions of dollars each year towards the Lavi's development.

One theory says the $300 million for local defence production will continue pouring in even if Israel cancels the Lavi, money the IDF can still invest in projects deemed more important.

Rabin, however, reportedly told the Cabinet there is no certainty the Americans will support the Lavi in the future, and military sources argued that if Israel goes ahead building the aircraft it doesn't really need, the Americans are certain to stop paying for it.

Rabin accompanied by the Lavi Project's director Menahem 'Eyni is to meet Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger, and Secretary of State George Shultz.

Midday Press on Rabin's Trip, Ties with Syria

TA300931 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Review of midday press editorials]

[Text] *Ma'ariv* writes about the defense minister's trip to Washington and voices the hope that Mr Rabin will find not only an attentive ear there but decisionmaking ability as well. The paper asks whether Mr Rabin is trying to pass on responsibility for a decision on the Lavi from Jerusalem to Washington and whether he is trying to receive support for his stance. However, the paper also asks, what is Mr Rabin's stance to begin with? A decision rather than a trip is necessary regarding the Lavi.

Hadashot also asks what Rabin is looking for in Washington: Why did he not go as the representative of a government that sat down and adopted a decision, instead of as a bewildered and confused envoy seeking a decision across the ocean.

Yedi'ot Aharonot writes about the West's links with Syria. The paper states that Syria has managed to mislead the United States and the West European countries and to create the impression that it has changed its position on terror. Seemingly the Syrians come out against terror: They struck at Fatah in Lebanon, they are now preparing to attack the Hizballah, and they closed down Abu Nidal's offices in Damascus. However, they did all this not in order to fight terror but rather to harness terror to their cart and use it for the realization of their goals in the future. Once again and as always, the Western statesmen prefer to go astray over gestures and to confuse gestures with political achievements.

Support for Peres Drops; Shamir's Popularity Rises

TA300923 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Jun 87 p 5

[Text] Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' popularity has dropped. The popularity of Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin also continues to decrease. By contrast, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's popularity has risen moderately, while that of Finance Minister Moshe Nisim has dropped slightly. These findings emerge from a nationwide public opinion poll conducted by the Pori Institute for *Ha'aretz* during the second week of June.

Only 38.4 percent of the public are currently pleased with Shim'on Peres' performance as foreign minister. This is the lowest percentage of support Peres has ever received during the times he served as prime minister and as foreign minister. During his tenure as prime minister (1985/6) 60 percent were satisfied with Peres; his popularity at a certain time even reached as high as 70 percent. During his tenure as foreign minister, more than 50 percent have expressed satisfaction with his performance; but now, as stated, this degree of popularity has dropped to only 38.4 percent. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's popularity has dropped to 49.8 percent, compared with the 52.6 percent of people pleased with his performance 2 months ago. This is also the lowest level of popularity Yitzhaq Rabin has received during all his years as defense minister.

On the other hand, the number of people satisfied with Yitzhaq Shamir's performance as prime minister has increased. At present 30.3 percent of the public are pleased with Shamir compared with 26.1 percent in the previous poll. This percentage is close to the average 32.5 percent of those satisfied with Yitzhaq Shamir since he began his term as prime minister.

The percentage of people satisfied with Moshe Nisim as finance minister dropped by 2.2 percent: from 40.3 percent in April to 38.1 percent at present.

The poll was conducted on a representative sample of 1.200 men and women who were personally interviewed throughout the country.

Poll Shows Drop in Support for Likud, Alignment

TA261604 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Jun 87 pp A1, 9

[Text] The number of those who say that, were elections to the Knesset to be held now, they would vote for the Alignment has dropped below the number of Alignment voters in the elections to the 11th Knesset. While 37.1 percent voted for the Alignment in the previous elections, only 32.9 percent say they would vote for the Alignment now. These are the findings of an elections poll conducted during the second week of June by the Pori Institute and commissioned by *Ha'aretz*.

The number of those who say that they would vote for the Likud has also dropped below the number of Likud voters in the elections to the 11th Knewset. While the Likud received 31.9 percent of the general vote in the previous elections, only 25.5 percent say they would vote for the Likud now.

The votes lost by both the Alignment and the Likud mostly go to the small parties. The Alignment's loss (4.2 percent) is the gain of the Citizens Rights Movement [CRM] and Shinuy. Tehiya, and to a much lesser extent KAKH, increased their strength by 6.5 percent which constitutes the votes lost by the Likud.

The religious parties more or less retain their strength. Some 10.9 percent would vote for them today, compared to 11.4 percent in the previous elections.

Pollster Refa'el Gi, director of Pori Institute, notes that a considerable number of Likud and Alignment voters do not know whom they would vote for today. Some 29.8 percent of the Likud voters and 24.4 percent of the Alignment voters said they did not know whom they would vote for.

Some 10.7 of those polled refused to say who they would vote for.

Following are the results of the poll (quoted in percentages), compared with the results of the elections to the 11th Knesset:

	Poll	11th Knesset	Change
Alignment	32.9	37.1	minus 4.2
Tend toward Alignment	9.3	5.1	plus 4.2
Likud	25.5	31.9	minus 6.4
Tend toward Likud	11.7	5.2	plus 6.5
Religious parties	10.9	11.4	minus 0.5
Others	6.7	6.4	plus 0.3

The poll was conducted on a nationwide representative sample of 1,200 Jewish women and men, eligible voters over 18 years of age, who were interviewed individually and very discreetly.

Palestinians Form Pro-Jordan Political Group

TA300936 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Jun 87 p 1,

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] A group of Palestinians in the territories has formed a political action group with Jordanian backing to lobby for PLO renunciation of terrorism and acceptance of Security Council Resolution 242 — and also, talks in an international conference to establish a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation.

The group, made up mostly of businessmen and professionals, plans to promote political ideas similar to those advocated by Jordan's King Husayn, while emphasizing that it does not oppose the PLO and favour the organization's participation with Jordan in the peace process.

The group has consulted with Jordanian envoys and plans to promote its ideas in the press and to work to gain influence in Palestinian institutions in the territories. PLO supporters currently control major unions, student groups and other Palestinian cultural and social organizations.

The planned activities of the Jordanian-backed group are said to be the first serious attempt in years to challenge the PLO at the grassroots level in the territories.

The group plans to make a special effort to recruit support in rural areas, where city-based pro-PLO organizations are less strong.

The idea of organized Jordanian-backed political activity in the territories has been under consideration in Amman and locally for some time, but was only recently made operational, following assessments that the time was ripe for an appeal to Palestinian public opinion frustrated by the lack of political alternatives proposed by the PLO.

Sources familiar with the group denied reports that it would serve to funnel Jordanian development funds to the territories, and said it would concentrate on promoting political ideas aimed at a peaceful settlement and an end to Israeli occupation.

King Husayn Returns From 'Short' Visit to Iraq
JN301914 Amman Televison Service in English
1900 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn returned home following a short working visit to Iraq. His majesty was welcomed upon his return by His Highness Prince 'Abdallah, Deputy Premier 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Majali, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Field Marshal Zayd ibn Shakir, and other senior officials.

King Husayn Discusses Mideast Conflict
AU010841 Vienna Television Service in German
1815 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Interview with King Husayn by Austrian television reporter Hans Benedict in Amman; date not given -- videorecorded in English with superimposed German translation]

[Text] [Benedict] Your Majesty, I remember you saying in an interview that there cannot be any Middle East peace initiative if the Arabs do not free themselves from their inaction [erstarrung]. What do we have now? Inaction or initiative?

[Husayn] I believe that we are on the verge of a breakthrough. The world in general has accepted the concept of an international peace conference to be convened by the UN secretary general under the aegis of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. All the conflicting parties will participate in the negotiations. This includes the Palestinians, with the PLO. They must search for a solution to the Palestinian problem in line with UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

[Benedict] Does this breakthrough not have to be achieved by the conflicting parties themselves? That means, by the Palestinians and the Israelis. How should the superpowers for their part achieve a breakthrough if there is no chance of a breakthrough between those immediately concerned?

[Husayn] Well, look, this question is very simple. It goes this way: The Israeli prime minister says that the areas occupied since 1967 have long been joined to Israel, and that is it. This is no solution. Therefore, we have to use the UN Resolutions — 242 calls for land for peace and 338 calls for specific negotiations between the conflicting parties and concerns the entire Palestinian question. That is, we are not talking about a return to conditions that prevailed before the 1967 war but a total solution to the problem. This is the only way out.

[Benedict] Your Majesty, one must not overlook the fact that your northern neighbor Syria is one of the leading powers in the Middle East. Therefore, it seems to be all the more important that you initiated the first steps of the United States and Syria toward a rapprochement — between President Reagan and President Al-Asad. Is there a development that would bring Syria to the conference table? What conditions would it take for Syria to participate in the negotiations from the very beginning?

[Husayn] I believe that Syria would participate from the very start.

[Benedict] Has Al-Asad assured you of this?

[Husayn] I know from my talks with President Al-Asad that he and I see the problems the same way. We both want comprehensive peace and a solution to all aspects of the Palestinian problem.

[Benedict] Including a total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights?

[Husayn] I would assume that there is no doubt about this. The Golan Heights were also occupied in 1967. The conference would address this issue. The parties would negotiate to resolve these problems.

[Benedict] Your Majesty, may I still return to the function of the big powers. So much is said about your role and about its risks. What would you do if the Soviet Union offered you its good advice, while, on the other hand, as you quoted him, the Israeli Prime Minister Shamir says the Soviet Union will never give guidance but will just impose its will on the parties concerned?

[Husayn] One could very easily say that it is quite conceivable also that Mr Shamir might impose his will on the United States. But those are superpowers and those are the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. They are the guarantors of the search for peace in our part of the world and the protectors of a conference in which the negotiating partners are acting according to the directives of UN resolutions. The five permanent members of the Security Council have to put this into regular paths in line with the two resolutions — 242 and 338 — and obviously you have to deal with the Palestinian problem. Therefore, all aspects of the Palestinian problem must be tackled.

[Benedict] Your Majesty, active big-power involvement in another area of the Middle East is a very topical issue in another conflict area in the region — the Gulf War. The U.S. decision to increase its naval presence is a contentious one. Do you think that this will result in, number one, safety of the oil shipping lanes and, number two, progress toward an end to the war?

[Husayn] We have been very, very concerned with the deterioration of the situation. In the 7th year of the war everything must be done to reestablish the borders as they were before the war. Prisoners must be exchanged and peace talks must be held to restore stability to the area. But as things stand now, one cannot predict exactly what will happen next. And the dangers may overspill into the entire area. This could have very serious global consequences.

[Benedict] Your Majesty, obviously your words reflect those of your ally, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. Are the Arabs and the Government of Iran attempting negotiations or a rapprochement?

[Husayn] I am not aware of anything of the sort going on. I am not saying what I said because I am Iraq's ally, which I have always been and will always be. On the other hand, the principles of which I speak are the only ones that could be the foundation for peace between the two neighbors Iraq and Iran.

[Benedict] If there is no known dialogue going on between the Arabs and Iran, do you find Syria suitable as a mediator with Iran?

[Husayn] I suppose that many in the area and in the world are still looking for the correct approach. Unfortunately, although this process has been going on for a long time, we are still involved in it. I have no personal knowledge of any such activities going on at this time.

Mauritania's Severance of Ties With Iran 'Sound'

JN301105 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Jun 87 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "The Mauritanian Stand Is a Response to Iranian Intransigence"]

[Text] Mauritania took a sound and proper stand by severing its diplomatic relations with Tehran. It was not the first Arab or Islamic or non-Arab/non-Islamic state to realize the seriousness of the policies pursued by the Iranian rulers. Nor was it the first to understand the gravity of the slogans which they promoted and advocated. Certainly, it will not be the last. Since the first few months following its assumption of power in Tehran, the true nature of the Iranian regime has been exposed. The first few months were a period which witnessed that regime's failure to translate big slogans into acts and deeds. Iran's internal situation reflected this, as did its foreign and international relations.

The Iranian rulers have turned against their neighbors and fellow Muslims. Also, they now oppose many of the nations who had signed international treaties and conventions with Iran. First and foremost, they have gravely damaged the Iranian economy, society, spirituality, and civilization. The Iranian people have paid and continue to pay the price of the Iranian rulers' warmongering, vindictiveness, and desire to delude both the international community and their own people. Thanks to its wisdom, Jordan has realized from the beginning of the Iraq-Iran war and throughout its course that the Iranian slogans are misleading. We realized that the Iranian regime erred when it became obsessed by arrogant and intransigent stands. These policies made Iranian officials deaf and blind. Thus, they were unable to respond favorably to peace efforts. They were also prevented from accepting the mediation efforts to end the war, curb its effects, and create a dialogue designed to preserve the rights and safeguard the dignity of the warring parties.

Fraternal Mauritania's stand shows that Iran's position is being increasingly exposed. This should prompt many countries headed by the Islamic and Arab states to immediately reevaluate and reassess their policies toward the Iranian regime. They should also be encouraged to cease their reluctance and hesitation in this regard. In this way, the regime may return to its senses and accept peace calls.

Since the beginning, Arab, Islamic, and international quarters have been deeply disappointed with the Iranian revolution's deviation from its declared line, objectives, and slogans. Day by day, new quarters in the world continue to be disappointed. The Iranian authorities' rejection of the simplest concepts of right, common sense, and good-neighborliness can account for this. They allow the war to continue. Also, it is believed that Iran exports terrorism.

Mauritania reached its conclusion some time ago. It was expressed the day before yesterday through severance of diplomatic relations with Iran. Tunisia, Egypt, and other Arab states had previously reached this conclusion. There are many nations whose stands and interests may not converge with Arab or Islamic stands and interests. Nonetheless, they have in time realized that the dangers posed by the Iranian regime's warmongering extend beyond the region currently affected by the war to other areas. These countries also understand that these dangers undermine the interests of many nations in the world. Some quarters used to entertain hopes that Tehran might return to its senses and stop its misguided policies and acts. They were hoping that Iran would realize that good-neighborliness and brotherhood in faith are principles for halting its aggression. However, past events and experiences have shown that Iran has deviated from the correct path.This deviation embarrasses states which advocate the principles of peace, right, and justice and continue to maintain relations with Iran.

Lower House Speaker Meets Soviet Committee

JN301305 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Jun 87 p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, 'Akif al-Fayiz who is also speaker of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU), said on Monday that Jordan believes in a just and comprehensive peace that is capable of easing tensions and limiting outside exploitation of the ongoing conflicts.

During a meeting with a visiting delegation from the Soviet Peace Committee, Mr. al-Fayiz said His Majesty King Husayn is actively seeking to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East, considering such a conference as the optimal forum for establishing peace.

He added that the Palestine question, the Iran-Iraq war, and the Lebanese problem constitute a serious threat to the world security and stability.

Mr. al-Fayiz praised the Soviet stand, describing it as supportive of Arab causes and called on the Soviet Union to continue, in its capacity as one of the superpowers, to provide support to the Arabs.

Mr. al-Fayiz expressed Jordan's appreciation for the resolutions recently adopted by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council on the Iran-Iraq war.

He said that all countries should support this resolution and should take a firm stand towards Iran, if it does not respect the international will which calls for an end to the war.

The head of the delegation 'Izzat Kliecheb expressed his country's apprpeciation to King Husayn for his stand towards estab-

lishing peace in the region and praised the King's efforts at the international level to establish just and durable peace.

He said that the Soviet Union has, from the very beginning, supported the proposal for holding an international peace conference, under the auspices of the United Nations to be attended by all parties concerned. The Soviet Union shares Jordan's assessment that the Middle East problem constitutes a serious threat to international peace and security, he said.

He thanked Jordan for his supportive stand of the Soviet Union's stand vis-a-vis disarmament issues.

Also receiving the delegation on Monday was Senator Baghjat al-Talhuni who is also president of the Jordan Soviet Friendship Society. Mr. al-Talhuni voiced Jordan's appreciation and gratitude to the Soviet Union for its supportive stand of Arab causes.

Mr. al-Talhuni said that during his visit to the Soviet Union, he felt that Jordan and the Soviet Union have similar views on Middle East issues and the proposed international peace conference.

King Husayn Pays 4-Day Visit to Turkey

For reportage on the visit to Turkey by King Husayn and his accompanying delegation which included Queen Nur, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rafa'i and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, among others, with accounts on his meetings with Turkish President Kenan Evren and Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, see the Turkey section of the 29 June West Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Group Claims Responsibility for Glass Kidnapping
NC011358 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1348 GMT 1 Jul 87

[Text] A group calling itself the Organization for the Defense of Free People [Munazzamat al-Difa' 'An al-Sha'b al-Hurr] has claimed responsibility for the recent kidnapping of U.S. journalist Charles Glass in West Beirut. The organization issued a statement describing Glass as a spy who will remain in custody for interrogation. The statement adds that his kidnapping is merely one step in a series of measures intended to uncover certain schemes, and notes that Glass had been moving in the area according to a plan set for him to carry out.

AL-SHIRA' on Abduction
JN301651 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 29 Jun 87 pp 10, 11

[Text] The kidnapping of journalist Charles Glass, the beginning of preparations for the trial of Muhammad 'Ali Hamadah, and the presence in Tehran of 'Imad Mughaniyah and 'Abd al-Hadi Hammad took place at the same time. What connection is there among these four?

Charles Glass is the U.S. journalist who was most active during the hijacking of the TWA plane in the summer of 1985, carried out by a group belonging to Hizballah and later released by the Amal Movement.

This journalist succeeded in remaining in contact with the hijackers, in taking their pictures, in recognizing some of them, and in joking with others. He also accompanied some of them to the Summerland Hotel, invited them to lunch, and swam with them. This journalist has also taken pictures of the hijackers.

Muhammad 'Ali Hamadah was arrested in the FRG on charges of participating in the TWA hijacking. The FRG police believe Glass can identify him.

As for 'Imad Mughaniyah and 'Abd al-Hadi Hamadah, the brother of Muhammad 'Ali Hamadah, they are officials in charge of security in Hizballah. Observers believe that they planned the hijacking of the above plane and are now in Tehran for the following two reasons: First, to supply information on the U.S. hostages, some of whom were transferred to Tehran some time ago following a lengthy detention in Lebanon, and second, to coordinate with Iran with respect to the trial of 'Abd al-Hadi's brother in the FRG.

Is there a link among these three issues? Can Glass' kidnapping be the natural introduction to understanding all these issues? Does all this indicate which party kidnapped the U.S. journalist and the son of Lebanese Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran?

Before attempting to answer these questions, we must review the minutest details of the kidnapping operation, which preoccupied the world and Lebanon for a week and which has not ended, despite the fact that 'Ali 'Usayran was released. The continued incarceration of Glass has kept this issue alive.

Charles Glass is a U.S. journalist. His mother is a Maronite from Zgharta. Glass knows Lebanon very well as he has visited it many times over the past 5 years to report on Lebanese events. Recently he began w.'ing a book on Lebanon, the influential forces there and its families, institutions, and leaders. During his last visit to Lebanon he stayed over 1 and 1/2 months and met with many key political figures from various communities. In his contacts with his Lebanese friends, Glass has demonstrated a pronounced sympathy for the moderate trends, which reject sectarianism both on Islamic and Christian levels.

Glass met with 'Ali 'Usayran who returned from London approximately 1 week before he was kidnapped. He visited him several times in Al-Rumaylah where the family lives. On the night of the kidnapping he stayed with 'Ali until 0300 in the morning. they were kidnapped at 1100 on Wednesday 17 June 1987. They were kidnapped by 14 armed men who were riding in 3 cars. The first a Mercedes, the second a BMW, and a third whose make was not identified. They were taken by side roads through Al-Awza'i and on the airport road to the southern suburb where they were held for hours in one of the apartments. Later they kept transferring them from one apartment to another.

Glass and 'Usayran were transferred from Al-Awza'i, where they were kidnapped, to the suburb and then taken on roads where there is no Syrian military presence. The Syrians checked these roads [after the kidnapping] and found that there were no roadblocks. They are three unpaved paths and the kidnappers used one of them. (Later, the Syrians set up roadblocks on these narrow, unpaved paths).

After the kidnapping, violent clashes took place in the southern suburb. This gave the impression that the clashes were partly aimed at covering an issue that had shocked Lebanon and the Shi'ite sect in particular, especially since the clashing parties were Shi'ite, the kidnappers were Shi'ite, and one of the men kidnapped was Shi'ite. The Shi'ite reaction was one of extreme anger. The Supreme Shi'ite Islamic Council would have called for an open strike unitl the son of Shi'ite political figure 'Adil 'Usayran was released had the kid' ·opers not done something to preempt this step.

'Ali 'Usayran, Charles Glass, and their companion were kidnapped in Al-Awza'i. 'Usayran and the companion were then released in Sidon to imply that the operation had nothing to do with the suburb and that there was Palestinian participation in it because of the intensity of the Palestinian armed presence in Sidon. This could also have been meant to imply that there was a Palestinian advantage through scoring a point against Syrian security on the coastal road.

At a time when the house of the family's son-in-law Ramzi al-Sa'idi, where 'Adil 'Usayran sometimes resides, was crowded with people representing most of the leaders in the country to condemn this operation, many analyses were made about the objectives of the kidnapping and the identity of the kidnapping forces. Some said the oepration was carried out to erase the traces of the crime of killing Prime Minister Rashid Karami or at least used for this purpose. This made Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an say that the Lebanese Forces are not only present in East Beirut but have an important presence in West Beirut as well.

Indeed, for a whole week after the kidnapping, attention was given to the fate of 'Usayran and Glass, while pursuit of killers of Rashid Karami had the least attention.

Moreover, the intensive Syrian efforts to establish a liberation and reunification front were deeply hit because of public and political interest in and condemnation of the kidnapping, especially since the most important parties in the front were preoccupied with the kidnapping and its dangerous effects. This postponed discussing the establishement of a front until the kidnapped people were released.

Damascus' endeavor to hold an expanded Islamic meeting was also undermined because of the preoccupation with the kidnapping of more than one perspective member to the meeting. These included 'Adil 'Usayran and Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy head of the Supreme Shi'ite Islamic Council.

If the first conclusion was drawn in the domestic arena, what had regional importance was the effect of the operation on Syrian-Iranian relations. This is due to the fact that the operation came amid many reports on the circumstances of a visit paid by Mohsen Rafiqdust, Iranian minister of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, to Damascus and then the postponement of a visit by Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi. It also came amid many reports on Syrian-Iraqi rapprochment with which Iran is not satisfied.

Information says this led to the postponement of the visit and prompted the kidnappers to carry out their operation to imply that Iran had something to do with it as a means of pressure against Syria, which is planning for new balances in its relations to make things easier for it on Arab and Soviet levels and also on Lebanese and economic levels.

More than one informed source affirmed to *Al-Shira'* that the kidnapping has greatly embarrassed Iran because its aims can be easily detected and because of its timing. These sources did not rule out that certain forces in Iran were behind the kidnapping to officially embarrass Syria and Iran at the same time. The sources also did not rule out that the known Palestinian and Arab infiltrations into Hizballah were behind the kidnapping to strike at Syrian-Iranian relations at this important turning point when Syria is reviewing its relations with the Arabs and Iran.

The informed sources also affirmed that the fact that no Islamic or other front claimed the kidnapping implies that the names behind which the Islamic groups were hiding when claiming other kidnapping operations have now disappeared. This affirms that official Iran does not agree with this operation. However, it does not rule out the involvement of other Iranian groups in the kidnapping through their known Lebanese groups.

In addition, there is a desire in Syrian-Iranian security circles to punish the kidnappers, as well as a readiness to reveal their names and expose them. Many names of kidnappers have been mentioned and some of them reached Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, the deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council.

The sources added that Damascus has so far not received this information. Damascus still insists on the release of U.S. journalist Glass after it succeeded through pressure in getting 'Ali 'Adil 'Usayran released. For this reason Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an attended the meeting of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council which considered the release of 'Ali 'Usayran insufficient to end the issue of the kidnapping. The issue will end with the release of the American before he becomes another of the foreign hostages, particularly since the challenge facing Syria is that this kidnapping is the first in the area Syria pledged to maintain secure when it returned to Beirut on 22 February 1987.

If we answered the first question on the kidnapping of Glass, the trial of Hamadah, and the presence of 'Abd al- Hadi Hamadi in Tehran all happening at the same time, we would say the timing must be taken into consideration in addition to linking it with what is taking place on the local level. Consequently, the kidnapping of Glass is considered an understandable prelude to what is happening in Tehran and Bonn.

Who has an interest in the kidnapping? It has become clear that the infiltrations into the pro-Iranian Islamic groups began to come into play whether these infiltrations are Iranian in terms of decisionmaking and policy or Iran benefited from them in every sense.

Kan'an: Syria Determined to Secure Glass Release

NC301054 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1037 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] *Reuter* has cited a source close to the Syrian Forces deployed in Lebanon as saying Syria has reiterated to the supporters of Iran its determination to secure the release of U.S. journalist Charles Glass.

The source added that Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an [head of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon] explained the Syrian stand at a meeting he held last night with Hizballah leaders and an Iranian diplomat. The source said parties with influence among the kidnappers attended the meeting and Kan'an informed them of Syria's determination to secure the release of Glass as soon as possible. This stand was clearly and firmly conveyed, the source added.

Hizballah Delegation Leaves for Damascus

NC010601 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 1 Jul 87

[Text] A Hizballah delegation led by Shaykh Ibrahim al-Amin has left for Damascus to continue talks with Syrian officials on the release of U.S. journalist Charles Glass. According to an AFP report, Husayn Musawi, who is a leader of the Islamic Amal Movement and a Hizballah official in Al-Biqa', will also join the meeting.

Leader Rules Out 'Confrontation'

NC010933 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0920 GMT 1 Jul 87

[Text] Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, the spiritual leader of Hizballah in central Al-Biqa', has ruled out a confrontation between Syrian forces and Hizballah. He also ruled out the possibility of Syrian entry into the southern suburb. He said: The Syrians have received a warning. They know the matter is not a simple one. They are not considering entering the suburb because they cannot absolve themselves from their pledges to us.

He denied that Hizballah has any connection with the kidnapping of U.S. correspondent Glass.

Shi'ite Doctor Cited on Waite's Health, Morale

NC011443 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1420 GMT 1 Jul 87

[Text] British Independent Television has cited Shi'ite sources in Beirut as stating that Terry Waite and U.S. hostages Terry Anderson and Thomas Sutherland are being held in the Iranain city of Qom, where they have been secretly taken.

The same sources added that a Shi'ite doctor who used to act as intermediary between Waite and the captors of some of the hostages saw Waite in a West Beirut clinic during the months following his disappearance. The doctor reported that Waite's health and morale had improved considerably.

Waite, U.S. Hostages' Move to Iran Not Confirmed

LD302218 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English
2208 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] A report that missing church envoy Terry Waite was being held in Iran could not be confirmed tonight by the Church of England.

"We have had no firm news at all," said Spokeswoman Mrs Eve Keatley.

"This is one of the many reports which are presented to us. We have to say we cannot confirm it."

ITN [Independent Television News] said tonight that the archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy and two American hostages were almost certainly being held in the Iranian holy city of Qom.

Citing Shi'ite Moslem sources in Beirut, it said all three had been moved by their pro-Iranian Hizballah captors in recent weeks from Lebanon by a variety of routes. The other hostages were named as Terry Anderson and Thomas Sutherland.

The Church of England frequently receives unofficial reports from the Middle East, many of them contradictory.

"The one thread running through all of them is that Terry Waite is still alive," Mrs Keatley said.

Mr Waite, 48, went missing in January on a mission to the Lebanon to try to negotiate freedom for Western hostages.

Syrian Checkpoint Opens Fire on Fadlallah Convoy

NC301940 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1915 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] Security sources informed Voice of Lebanon a short time ago that the convoy escorting scholar Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah [Hizballah's spiritual mentor] was fired upon by personnel manning a Syrian checkpoint near Al-Rasul al-A'zam Mosque on the airport road as it was passing through the checkpoint at 2030 today. The incident led to an intensive exchange of gunfire between the personnel manning the checkpoint and Fadlallah's escorts.

The convoy then resumed its journey toward [Beirut's southern] suburb.

Contacts were made immediately to eliminate the tension prevailing in the area.

Syrian Forces Cancel Iranian Guards 'Privileges'

NC302045 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
2015 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] A source close to the Syrian forces has informed AFP that Damascus has canceled the privileges the Iranian Revolution Guards were previously granted while traveling between Lebanon and Syria. The Revolution Guards are no longer allowed to use their military privileges, but are now required to obtain special permits to enter Lebanon and are also not allowed to use the military roads.

Lebanese Forces Examine U.S.-Syrian Relations

NC302058 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1845 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] The Lebanese Forces Command Council held its weekly meeting under the chairmanship of Dr Samir Ja'ja'. After discussing general developments, the Council issued the following statement:

1. The Lebanese Forces Command Council has assessed the satisfaction expressed by popular and political circles to the proposal to establish an independence government. The Lebanese Forces emphasize their principled stand on this proposal, which is based upon the following two accepted truths.

a) The proposal for an independence government is a call to emerge from the current state of division resulting from the presence of foreign armies and armed forces in large areas of the country, and to unite Lebanon and drive these armies and armed groups from all parts of the country.

The Lebanese Forces recall that the presence of foreign armies was a direct cause of the partition of a country in the past. Many examples testify to this; namely, Cyprus, Germany, Korea, and

Vietnam. Consequently, the proper path to Lebanon's unification should begin with the withdrawal of all foreign armies and armed groups from its territory.

b) An independence government is the natural alternative to the no-government situation or occupation government situation. Just as we have refused a state of no-government and demanded its replacement by a government which governs, we reject the occupation government and demand the establishment of a harmonious government, whose ministerial statement would include a single clause; namely, the liberation of all Lebanese territory from foreign armies and armed groups and by all methods.

2. The Lebanese Forces Command Council discussed the economic and social situation in the free Lebanese areas and adopted a series of measures that will contribute to the citizens' ability to endure the present economic condition. These measures will be announced shortly.

3. The Lebanese Forces Command Council discussed new developments related to U.S.-Syrian relations and noted the now customary proposals made at the expense of Lebanon's sovereignty and independence. It has been acknowledged over the past 12 years that whenever a country wishes to effect a rapprochement with Syria or mend its relations, that country announces its recognition of Syria's legitimate rights in Lebanon. The expected announcement of such positions when U.S.-Syrian meetings convene contravenes the simplest principles, and particularly UN principles, of correct relations among countries.

The Lebanese Forces desire to clarify the following enduring position: If a country wishes to recognize Syria's legitimate rights, then let such recognition deal with Syria's rights in that particular country, not in Lebanon.

Dany Sham'un Discloses Purpose of U.S. Visit

NC301819 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] At a news conference tonight, National Liberal Party leader Dany Sham'un disclosed that the purpose of his recent visit to the United States was to sound out U.S. officials on Lebanon. He noted that elections are scheduled to be held next year in several countries interested in Lebanon, including the United States, France, and Israel. Sham'un said U.S. foreign policy makers showed complete understanding of the situation in Lebanon and expressed their support for free elections in the country. Sham'un also said that the U.S.-Syrian exchanges are part of the efforts to bring about a settlement in Lebanon and in the region. Sham'un voiced his opposition to any military action against Beirut's southern suburb, stating: We must stand up for any Lebanese whose life is threatened by others. We are opposed to any action that would lead to the death of Lebanese. Sham'un said that while in the United States, he had emphasized the need to help Lebanon, a bastion of freedom in the area, and that he had sensed the U.S. support for and appreciation of what Lebanon represents.

Internal Security Forces Commander Retires

NC301425 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] A decree was issued on 29 June providing for the retirement of Major General 'Uthman 'Uthman, director general of the Internal Security Forces, on the occasion of reaching the legal retirement age. At the same time, a decree was issued appointing Brigadier General 'Umar Makhzumi, commander of the Beirut police, as acting director general of the Internal Security Forces. Another decree issued on 29 June provided for the appointment of George Samahah as acting governor of Beirut following former Governor Mitri al-Nammar's retirement.

Al-Asad Accepts Ministers Resignations

JN262029 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
2015 GMT 26 Jun 87

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has issued two decrees, Nos 107 and 108, accepting the resignation of Construction Minister Riyad Baghdadi and Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Minister Mahmud al-Kurdi.

Plans To Partition Lebanon Criticized

JN291054 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, certain Lebanese quarters whose identities are known to everyone, both far and near, are aggravating the situation in Lebanon. Their initiatives, moves, actions, stands, and provocations are pushing matters to the brink of a conflagration. These moves and stands existed before and continued after the assassination of martyr Prime Minister Rashid Karami. They have done more than raise doubts. They have also made many people believe that what took place during the last few months was part of a well-prepared plan which is being manipulated by policymakers and plotters beyond the Lebanese-Israeli armistice lines and overseas. The plan is obvious despite the false slogans that are being raised to serve hostile quarters which do not want Lebanon to exist, recover, or reach a formula of coexistence and national accord. These hostile forces want to see Lebanon divided along communal and sectarian lines. This division would harmonize with and support the theory of the racist Zionist entity which has been established in Lebanon.

Those who are aggravating the situation and complicating matters must assume a very great responsibility for the consequences of their actions. This point must be clear to all rational and objective people in the areas where legal authority has been usurped by those involved in the hostile plan against Lebanon. These rational and objective people must quickly defend themselves, their people, their opinions, their Lebanese homeland, and their affiliation to this homeland. Whispered denunciations and prayers to God will not help. The objectives of those involved in the hostile plan — that is the Israeli plan — against Lebanon are a big danger to those who, with their territory, might be placed in the Israeli camp. Let those subdued people in areas where legal authority has been usurped by the tools of the Israeli plan remember the death, destitution, and torture which the birds of ill omen brought to their brothers in the mountain. Let them also remember the military defeats which the commanders of empty heroism caused in the mountain, East of Sidon, Beirut, and the Iqlim. Let those who are rational and objective act with courage, wisdom, and patriotism before it is too late.

The Zionists cite Massada in Jewish history. Why then would Lebanese patriots allow a group, which has cast its fate with the Israeli enemy, to drive them to mass suicide along the lines of Massada? How could this happen when all doors are open before them for a national dialogue and accord that achieves full recovery for Lebanon, preserves its unity, guarantees coexistence among its people, entrenches its Arab affiliation, and ensures all the means for liberating its territory from Israeli occupation?

The agents and the enemies of Lebanon and Syria involve Syria's name in Lebanon's internal affairs. They try to level all kinds of accusations against Syria by falsely claiming that Lebanon's battle is with Syria. When they do this, they are only exposing themselves and their links with Israel. Let every Lebanese read the statements which were issued during the last 3 or 4 days by the representatives of the agent quarters. They will find that these factions are carrying out Israel's instructions. They are trying to fabricate a battle with Syria. But they are completely overlooking the Israeli occupation, the Israeli role, and the Israeli danger. Most of their statements do not even mention Israel's name. That is not all. They are trying to create an atmosphere for serious partition steps in the name of liberation and independence.

The question posed to all Lebanese, particularly those living in the areas where the enemy agents are advancing, is: How long will they remain silent over the serious adventure which these agents are planning to implement? Those who remain silent shoulder the responsibility for enabling the plotters to act in the interest of Israel instead of Lebanon. As their ability to confront the plotters and the plot increases, so does their responsibility. The Israelis plan to partition Lebanon along communal and sectarian lines. They intend to turn that Arab country into a replica of the racist Zionist entity and an enemy of Syria. But no matter how far the plotters go in their designs and agentry, their plan is doomed to failure because Lebanon, Syria and the Arabs reject it. What the Israeli occupation forces, the NATO forces, and the U.S. fleets could not achieve will not be achieved by someone bearing all the characteristics of the bird of ill omen.

Oil Agreement With French Company Ratified

JN300543 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Excerpt] The People's Assembly held a session this evening under Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi with Mahmud Qaddur, deputy prime minister for services affairs, and several ministers attending. At the beginning of the session, the Assembly discussed the reports submitted by the Planning and Production Committee and the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee on the draft bill containing the ratification of the servicing agreement between Syria and the French Total Company. The agreement calls for the development and exploitation of oil. The People's Assembly endorsed the reports and ratified the draft bill. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Support for Opposition Groups Assailed

LD280938 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0509 GMT 28 Jun 87

["Statement of the *Bakhtar Information Agency*" — *Bakhtar* headline]

[Text] Kabul, June 25, *Bakhtar* — Radio-television of the Islamic Republic of Iran in one of its nightly news services has published a news saying that Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has met with a number of the heads of the opposition extremist groups of the DRA.

S.A. Khamene'i expressed the comprehensive support of his country for the continuation of the hostile activities of the extremist groups against the policy of national reconciliation of the DRA.

The warm reception and condolence awarded to the heads of the opposition extremist groups has not been a new event in the approach of Iranian ruling circles vis-a-vis the goodwill shown by the leadership of our revolutionary sovereignty aimed at normalising the situation around Afghanistan but is a continuation of a policy based on the aggravation of tension inside and around the DRA.

The Iranian circles by holding seminars and meetings such as seminar of manifestation of the unity of the united front of Afghanistan Islamic revolution, the convention of peace treaty and others have endeavoured to destabilise the situation in the DRA and to prevent the peaceful solution of the situation around Afghanistan and to bring about unity among opposition extremist groups, which was temporarily secured for several times but was dissolved.

The Iranian ruling circles have striven to get them united because as supplier of a big fund for the military training and equipping the groups the Iranian authorities could not tolerate the bloody clashes of the groups for their ambitious interests and thus have tried by all means to remove their differences and to get them mobilised in a united front against the DRA.

Khamene'i has also this time praised the so-called coalition of the opposition extremist groups and urged them in keeping the coalition and intensifying their subversive activities for undermining the policy of national reconciliation in our country.

The fact is that the enemies of the people of Afghanistan, reaction and international imperialism headed by the U.S. imperialism have continued their undeclared war against the DRA and have persistently escalated the level of their intervention into the internal affairs of Afghanistan. By doing so, they want to undermine the process of implementation of the policy of national reconciliation which has been announced under the bold initiative of the PDPA aimed at rebuffing the conspiracies of the designers of the undeclared war against revolutionary Afghanistan.

The facts are testifying that the human peaceful policy of national reconciliation is opening its path to the souls and hearts of the Afghans inside and outside the country, the full realisation of which has been converted to their sole aspiration.

In the past five months since the announcement of this policy the life of thousands of Afghans has been saved from destruction, who could have become the victim of such adventuristic and war-like policies. Tens of thousands of deceived Afghans have returned to their homeland with great zeal and enthusiasm and have resumed their peaceful life and have taken part in the restructuring of their country. Thousands of the opposition armed groups have laid their arms and have joined the process of national reconciliation.

The uprising [as received] people of Afghanistan bitterly condemn the futile efforts of the ruling circles of the Islamic Republic of Iran intended to destabilise the situation in Afghanistan as well as their collusion with the criminal acts of the U.S. imperialism. The people of Afghanistan consider these efforts as gross intervention into the internal affairs of Afghanistan and evaluate them as contrary to all the accepted norms in the relations between the countries.

The Afghan people call upon the Iranian ruling circles to do away with such instigations and to take into account the real wishes of the brotherly people of Iran and to let the Afghan people heal their wounds inflicted upon them due to the imperialist undeclared war and to mobilise their forces in the wake of the human policy of national reconciliation for the construction of a new and prosperous society.

Chamkani, Hatef Send Message to Tehran

LD302246 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Esteemed listeners of Radio Afghanistan, the following message has been sent by Haji Mohammad Chamkani, acting president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, and Abdorrahim Hatef, chairman of the Supreme National Reconciliation Commission and chairman of the Central Council of the DRA National Front, to Tehran addressed to Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [preceding sentence in Arabic] Dear Brother Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Muslim people of Afghanistan are striving for peace with a feeling of friendship, sincerity, and good-neighborliness. In accordance with the profound historic, cultural, and religious links that exist between our peoples, we feel entitled to call on you for the sacred cause of peace.

For 8 years now our homeland has been a bleeding wound. People's blood flows in our country; Muslims kill each other; mosques, farms, and Muslim homes are set on fire. Sacred places, mosques, and theological seminaries have been damaged and the sacred religion of Islam has been harmed. Such a situation can no longer be tolerated.

In accordance with the guidance of the religion of Mohammad, peace be upon him, and the legitimate demands of the Muslims,

the ulema, clergy, and respectable religious leaders, who are the forerunners of the welfare and well-being of society, have put forward the call for national reconciliation. The nature of this reconciliation is simple: Let the sound of guns stop, so that brothers can hear the voice of brotherhood and love. Let war and fratricide stop, so that brothers who have brandished swords may be able to engage in talks, consultations, and reconciliation. Let accumulated problems be resolved among the ummah of Mohammad, peace be upon him, through accord and consultation.

The Supreme National Reconciliation Commission has been created at the proposal of the clergy. This commission has approved some fundamental documents on national reconciliation. National reconciliation is the natural guarantee for safeguarding an Afghanistan with national sovereignty and nonaligned status. National reconciliation provides the opportunity to accelerate the country's economic growth and to shift the use of human and material resources away from war to peaceful creativity.

More than 150 days have passed since the declaration of the policy of national reconciliation in our wartorn, miserable country. These days are sensitive moments in our country's history. The policy of national reconciliation has now been transformed from words to deeds and from slogans to reality. During this period, more than 60,000 refugee compatriots have returned to the fatherland. More than 25,000 armed opposition members have joined the policy of national reconciliation and begun a peaceful life. More than 200 armed opposition groups, comprising tens of thousands of people, are engaged in negotiations with state organs. More than 6,000 people have been released from prisons. Some 1,100 villages have joined people's sovereignty through peaceful means. Elections to the local organs of state power and administration are successfully going ahead. It should be recalled that the formation of local bodies is increasingly acquiring a coalition nature. Some 14 districts and 4 provinces are run by former members of armed opposition groups. More than 4,000 representatives of the opposition are members of national reconciliation commissions.

The DRA state is of the opinion that objective conditions exist in the country for a practical and true coalition of all forces, including Islamic and patriotic forces. It can be said definitively that the policy of national reconciliation conforms with the interests of the majority of the people of Afghanistan. It enjoys the increasing broad support of Afghan society and our compatriots living abroad.

The national reconciliation policy has aroused great interest outside the country: in the United Nations, in the Islamic Conference Organization, at the Afghan-Pakistan talks in Geneva, at the gatherings of progressive parties, and in international social organizations. Confidence is increasing everywhere about the correctness of the policy of national reconciliation in the interests of peace. We see our righteousness, our power, and our goals in the fact that our beloved homeland, today and forever, should enjoy territorial integrity and national sovereignty and be nonaligned, peace-loving, and Islamic, with a desire for good-neighborliness and for being a true family for all people.

If we briefly analyze the international situation, then as you may know, the world has changed in the past 8 years. The historic (?principles) of the Nonaligned Movement, with Afghanistan as one of its initiators, have evolved into a new phase. The Delhi declaration on the principles of a world free from nuclear weapons and on the nonuse of force can become a basis for settling disputes in our region, the continent of Asia, and the entire world. These values exert their influence on all international, regional, and national relations.

The people, realizing that reconciliation and cooperation are the only legitimate, reasonable, and available methods to settle problems, have accepted this path and (?are striving) to achieve this. We are determined, with God's blessing and in accordance with the wishes of our toiling and Muslim people, to halt the rivers of blood and to stop the destruction of Afghanistan, which, like a fatal epidemic, devours everything. One should not destroy and humiliate human beings — this structure of the creation, and with the [words indistinct] of God, play the game of death and destruction and allow man to become the executioner of man, Muslim kills Muslim, and plunder his property. [preceding Koranic verse in Arabic]

What lofty goals have we set? The sacred religion of Islam is the religion of the Afghan people and this has been stated in the new Constitution.

The people's sovereignty will make efforts to form a government of national unity with the participation of broad political forces, including the formation of a coalition. Achieving an urgent solution to the political situation around Afghanistan, based on the cessation of intervention from abroad and guarantees for nonrepetition, will in turn speed up the withdrawal of the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union, who are in Afghanistan at the request of our lawful government.

The people of Afghanistan, with a feeling of fraternity toward all their neighbors, wish to be allowed to reach an accord among themselves. We wish from the bottom of our hearts that the fraternal people of Iran, their government, and their great leader, Ayatollah Khomeyni, who are loyal to the cause of Islamic brotherhood, will assist us in implementing our policy of reconciliation. We also hope that they will help us to restore peace and tranquillity and prevent those who want to continue the killing and fratricide of Muslims in our country from operating from Iranian territory. We hope that our Iranian brothers will prepare the ground for the return of Afghans to their homeland. We can give assurance that in accordance with the principles of Islamic law and our national traditions we will help them.

Let Islamic brotherhood be strengthened! Let fraternity triumph over all conspiracies of aggressive imperialism, reaction, Zionism, and all evil forces! We wish prosperity and tranquillity for His Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni, the great leader of the (?Shi'as), for Your Eminence President Khamene'i, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the fraternal oppressed people of Iran. Peace be upon you.

[Signed] Haji Mohammad Chamkani, acting president of the DRA Revolutionary Council

Abdorrahim Hatef, chairman of the Supreme National Reconciliation Commission and chairman of the DRA National Front

Diplomats Say Rebel Areas Reportedly Bulldozed

BK301246 Hong Kong AFP in English
1231 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] Islamabad, June 30 (AFP) — Soviet forces have started to bulldoze areas inhabited by Moslem rebel sympathisers in Qandahar after weeks of fighting that has left the southern city in ruins, Western diplomats said here Tuesday. They said Moscow's troops were demolishing houses so they could move in heavy armour in a bid to wrest control of the areas from Moslem guerrillas known as mujahidin. "Houses and vegetation along the 26 kilometer (16 mile) route to the airport have been levelled to provide a clear field of fire," one diplomat said.

The pro-rebel *Afghan Islamic Press* (AIP) said: "Enemy troops have begun razing the area's lanes and widening streets inside the city for their armour's movement in the areas where mujahidin were particularly strong."

The diplomats said that Rishkhor gate, considered the guerrillas' refuge in the city, was demolished last week by Soviet forces defending the Moscow-installed government in Kabul.

Afghan rebels and Western diplomats reported continued fighting in Qandahar over the past six weeks, virtually destroying what was once Afghanistan's second largest city. "The city is largely in ruins," one diplomat said, adding that Qandahar was without electricity, running water or telephones.

Diplomats said that the city's population, which stood at more than 175,000 five years ago, had now dwindled between 30,000 and 40,000. Only one bazaar out of more than half a dozen bustling shopping centres was catering to consumers while the city's civil hospital was left with only three physicians, the diplomats said. They said the Soviets had their own hospital near the airport, but flew all serious cases to Kabul.

In the third week of June alone, the diplomats said, nine planes were downed in Qandahar. The guerrillas reported shooting down nine other bombers and helicopters since fighting erupted in late May.

Western diplomats said the new Soviet strategy reflected their vulnerability to the mujahidin's anti-aircraft capability and their frustration in attempts to exert control in the city itself.

With helicopters unable to operate beyond Lashkargah, near the Qandahar airport, Soviet planes have had to resort to high-altitude bombing, the diplomats said.

Rebels sources said the mujahidin fought hand to hand with Soviet troops in several areas. The diplomats said that sweeping operations by Soviet foot soldiers were likely to produce higher casualties. They said that fighting had erupted in Western Herat with the mujahidin killing 80 Afghan soldiers and capturing three others.

The Soviets have brought in reinforcements and also conducted heavy air strikes on suspected guerrilla positions north, west and east of the city bordering Iran, the diplomats said.

They also reported extensive mujahidin infiltration of the Paghman area and an outbreak of fighting less thatn 15 kilometers (nine miles) from Kabul. Soviet forces are said to have moved in to the area to shore up Afghan units which had suffered heavy losses.

The diplomats said the mujahidin kept up their pressure on the capital with an apparent attack on a power plant last week that produced a brief blackout.

Several rockets reportedly struck the city. One source said the Soviet Embassy was also hit last week, but this was not confirmed.

The diplomats, quoting what they said was a good source, reported that several senior Kabul Air Force officers had died in the June 11 rebel missile attack on a military transport plane over the capital. Official Afghan media had said that 53 civilians died.

Another AN-26 shot down in Mazar-e Sharif on June 14 or 15 was a Soviet plane, the diplomats said. Forty-three people died in the incident which the diplomats said was blacked out by the Afghan press because it was a Soviet aircraft.

Quoting an unconfirmed report, they said a third AN-26 was shot down near Mazar-e Sharif on June 21. But the diplomats had no further details.

'Extremist' Groups' Weapons Discovered in Vardak

LD301013 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] *Bakhtar* reports that security forces discovered and removed several weapon caches belonging to extremist groups in the villages of Vardak Province. The people of the province helped in the discovery and removal of the weapons. Included in the find were: 19 light-caliber machineguns, one ZK-1, 2 DShKS, 2 mortars, 2 heavy-caliber machinguns, 246 rounds for recoilless guns, and thousands of rounds of ammunition for assorted weapons recently brought from Pakistan and stored for the purpose of disrupting the peaceful life of the people and the advance of national reconciliation in Vardak Province.

Gandhi Outlines Policy in Address to Reporters
BK301135 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1620 GMT 29 Jun 87

["Excerpts" of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's 29 June address to the Indian Association of Foreign Affairs Correspondents in New Delhi; moderated by S. Viswam -- recorded]

[Text] [S. Viswam] The crisis in Sri Lanka is for us very disturbing, alarming; and I think the developments in the last few weeks have introduced fresh strains and stresses into our relations with Sri Lanka; and there is also some confusion in the minds of most of us about what exactly is our policy on Sri Lanka. Therefore, if the prime minister will be good enough to talk on this subject, and then you can pick up and ask your questions.

[Gandhi] We have during these 2 and 1/2 years, well, actually 2 years now, because the process started in June 85 when President Jayewardene flew to Delhi, been trying to help Sri Lankan Government come to a negotiated political solution to the ethnic problem in northern Sri Lanka, well, in the whole of Sri Lanka. We have made quite a lot of headway on this which culminated in the talks of 19 December, and the proposals which are now today loosely referred to as 19th December proposals, because they are not actually 19th December proposals, the proposals going back almost 7-8 months and the composite of the 7-8 months of talks. Unfortunately, almost immediately after 19th December with our minister of state for external affairs flying back to India, the Sri Lankan Government took certain different positions to what we had believed had been discussed. Now, I know, today they are more or less back to what had been discussed on the 19th December, but in this intervening period there was a period of confusion when we did not know whether what had been discussed was going to be upheld or what was going to happen; and in that period also certain military offensives started in the north which have totally vitiated all the processes that we had started out before that and made it very, very difficult to come to, to bring anybody to a table so long as such military pressures are on. The culmination, in a sense, of that action, of that direction, was in our airdropping the relief supplies in the Jaffna Peninsula some weeks ago. We have been in touch with the Sri Lankan Government during that period and after that, and we are now supplying relief, coordinating it with the Sri Lankan Government to Jaffna. Our relief supplies have also led to an opening up of the embargo that had been placed on Jaffna and I believe now perhaps Sri Lankan ships themselves will be going to take relief supplies to the northern areas. The ball at the moment is very definitely in Sri Lanka's court and we are waiting for some positive indications from them.

[S. Viswam] (Katial)

[Reporter] Sir, there are two conflicting signals from Colombo. On the one hand, we get the impression that they are keen on a negotiated settlement, as you just told us; on the other hand, there is the somewhat retraction on 19 December proposals, the tendency to consolidate position on the ground and slowing down of these processes. What are our policy options and how can we go about it?

[Gandhi] You really said what I said. [laughter] There have been some conflicting indications from Sri Lanka. There is no doubt about that. And that is why I said the ball is really in Sri Lanka's court and we need some indications from them what they really, what direction they want to take.

[Reporter] Our option?

[Gandhi] Well, our option can only come once we know their direction.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, as Mr Viswam said, there is a confusion about Sri Lanka policy, but the confusion does not only confine to the newsmen, it is probably in the government. Many people in your government and the party want a policy of pressure on Sri Lanka so that you can force Sri Lanka to come to a settlement with the Tamil militants. There is a view within the government, you know it, and within your party that a policy of persuasion should be followed. What are you going to decide in favor of?

[Gandhi] I think, let us be clear about one point. There is no confusion about the views of the government or government policy. Government policy has been made after consultation with all levels — from Ministry of External Affairs up to the cabinet committees — and there is no confusion about that. That's very, very clear the direction that we want to go. Yet within that there are differing views. There are views which say that we should take a particular line, there are opposing views which say that we should take a different line. But on the collective view, that has been taken in government, there is no confusion.

[Reporter] This relief (?thing) has affected India's image because we have been criticized everywhere. How do you think this has affected our image because people have been saying that we are trying to intervene?

[Gandhi] Well, first let me say that by and large the relief operations that we undertook have been accepted by all countries of the world, and we have been in touch with Sri Lanka right through. We are in touch with Sri Lanka even now on continuing the relief supplies. We don't think that that has caused any problem at all to our image or to our basic policies.

[Reporter] In Sri Lanka, there are two parties — the Sri Lanka Government and the Tamils, for the militants or leaders or whoever you might call them. You as a government have been trying to bring them together. (?Any way) there is no military operation from either side. Even from now onward, if there is effort already on from our side, then both, the Tamil boys and Sri Lanka Government, really disagree to come around and sit together because that seems to be the main problem?

[Gandhi] No. We are in touch with both of them.

[Reporter] Mr Hameed [Sri Lankan foreign minister] has said in an interview to some magazine or newspaper that, first of all, he has admitted to going to Pakistan and some other countries for taking help and said that India, since it is involved, is out of question. Now how do you view these things? On the one hand, they are trying to find a link with us, and on the other they are

in contact with others, and have admitted also they are getting in touch with Israel also. Don't you think this goes contrary to what we are doing for this?

[Gandhi] Like I said, there are many contradictions in what the Sri Lankans are doing.

[Reporter] Are we taking note of that?

[Gandhi] We have taken note of it, but they have been doing this for a long time; it's not something new.

[S. Viswam] China. Who is for China? You. Okay (Tiwari) you frame a good question on China.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, you have had seven rounds of talks at the official level. They have been sterile. Do you have any plans to raise the dialogue to political level as it has been suggested during the last 2 years?

[Gandhi] Well, let us not say that. It would be wrong to say that all seven rounds have been sterile. Enough, I think, has been gained by both countries through these talks. Perhaps the last round did not really lead to anything very much, but the rounds before that, I think, did help. Yet we can say that they didn't move as we would have liked them to move; we could have gone faster. I agree with you that if real progress is to be made, we have to change the level of talks, the method of talks and bring some more political initiatives in it.

[Reporter] At what level? The foreign ministers' level or at different level?

[Gandhi] It will have to be worked out.

[Reporter] (?Various) Western sources are giving an impression that there is a likely confrontation between the two countries in the eastern sector, and [words indistinct]. Do you think that this alarming situation has receded or still prevails?

[Gandhi] Well, your second question is really redundant because there is no alarming situation as has been made out by the Western media. Both China and India have said very clearly that there is no confrontation of the sort that has been made out by the Western media on any of our borders. And I think it is best you ask the Western media why they are writing all that. It's not true.

[Reporter] There must be some motivation for what they are doing. Have we done some [military] exercises and why have we done, because even after Mr Tiwari's visit, there was a report, you might have seen?

[Gandhi] Well, it is a continuing effort, and it's an effort that is giving disinformation and trying to disorient. There is no truth in it at all.

[Reporter] Sir, on the question of negotiations with China, two points have always been recurring. On what basis do we negotiate? There is a package proposal. Then we took up the sector-wise discussion. Now has the political committee or the government as a whole has come to any conclusion where we should start with? Should we start with the package or continue with the sector-wise discussions?

[Gandhi] These are....

[Reporter, interrupting] (?Because) the clear direction of the Government of India's policy is having negotiations?

[Gandhi] Well, these are the sort of things which have to develop as we start talking about it. I don't think you can take hard positions on this before you start, because if you take a hard position on these things, then progress automatically is limited.

[Reporter] Chinese have recently said that Indian forces should go back to the position of 1959. How will you go back to dialogues?

[Gandhi] Well, let me say that we don't believe that there are Indian forces in Chinese territory, first, and second that we are evaluating all the various information that is coming in and we will be deciding when to hold the eighth round because that is also important, and how that would relate to Tiwari's visit to China, and we will focus on that.

[Reporter] Is there is any move to jointly work out the delineation of the line of actual control with China because this whole thing is under dispute and, you know, [words indistinct] the line was rather thickly drawn above the McMahon line [words indistinct] but about the line of actual control, they have been arguing that we are crossing and we have been arguing that they are crossing. Is there any move as such to have a joint survey of that line?

[Gandhi] At the moment, there is not any.

[Reporter] Sir, you invited the Chinese for centenary, the Congress [Party] centenary and they came. You got an invitation from the Chinese who are holding the congress.

[Gandhi] We have got an invitation....

[Reporter, interrupting] You got an invitation....

[Gandhi] For our representative, the Congress [Party] representative.

[Reporter] Whether the time has come to go ahead for fruitful negotiations, or do you think the time has come we can delink the sensitive border talks from economic [issues], for instance? As Chinese have been saying that alright you wait there, let us at least have economic relations, go ahead. What has been the government's overall assessment of our relations with China?

[Gandhi] During the past 2 years, since my meeting with the [Chinese] prime minister in New York, there has been a lot of improvement in our relations; there has been a thaw. Our exchanges have increased very much from what was happening before, but like you said the border issue still is a very major issue.

It is bit difficult to just isolate the border issue and see it entirely on its own, because if you isolate it in that manner, it is going to

be very difficult to build an area of trust so that solutions can come about. A much broader perspective has to be looked at if we are going to make progress in that direction and we are looking at it in that perspective. That is not to say that we are forgetting the border issue and concentrating on trade and other issues. No, we are looking at everything together.

[Reporter] I was wondering whether we have factual report about the Chinese troop movements in Tibet. Has there been any unusual movement or concentration, because many of these Western reports talk about Chinese troop movements and sudden increase in the troops concentration. What is the factual position? Do you have any independent source to come to any reasonable (?decision)?

[Gandhi] We believe that there has been some increase in the level of their forces in Tibet.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Gandhi] Well, how will you know the number of persons?

[Reporter] What is their intention and what are they trying to do there?

[Gandhi] It is difficult to say.

[Reporter] No, because there was a report circulated by a Western news agency which said that the concentration of troops in the Tibetan area is a prelude to further actions at the time of their choosing.

[Gandhi] If the reliability of the Western agencies is to be judged by the reports of the conflicts on our borders, then we can reject their reports outright.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, on your election 2 and 1/2 years ago you initiated what we called a new era of (?policy). Well, things have now gone in exactly the opposite direction judging from the tension in our relations with Pakistan, China, Sri Lanka. What is it? Did some of our assumptions go wrong, or some new unforeseen factors cropped up which impinged upon the situation?

[Gandhi] Well, perhaps, a little bit of both. We have continued to be positive in our dealing with our neighbors. And, you mentioned Pakistan: It is not because of any fault of ours that progress has not been made. It is partly because of Pakistan's difficulty in going ahead with some of the measures that they had agreed to do; it is partly because of the supply of sophisticated weapons and force multipliers to Pakistan by certain other countries which have caused problems. So, actually it is a mixture.

[Reporter] Sir, Zia, General Zia said that Kuldip Nayyar's interview [with Pakistan Atomic Energy Chief Qadir Khan admitting Pakistan's nuclear weapons capability] on this Pakistan bomb was a conspiracy, and he also hinted there was a foreign hand behind it. Have you had something to do with it? [laughter]

[Gandhi] Well, let me assure you that neither did we conspire with Kuldip Nayyar on that case, nor have we ever conspired with Kuldip Nayyar, nor do we intend to conspire with Kuldip Nayyar. [laughter]

[Reporter] A lot has been said about our relations with Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh. You take any country in South Asia. It seems that something has gone wrong somewhere. We have not been able to have the type of relations which we would have, I am sure you would have like to have. What went wrong? How do you propose to mend matters?

[Gandhi] Like I said, we want to improve relations with all our neighbors; we are still trying to do that. But we can only improve relations within the constraints of India's interests. We cannot bargain away or give up on our interests and we have to see that the other countries in the region compromise on their side equally to what we are willing to compromise. We started this exercise, for example, with Pakistan. And we agreed on a series of measures that we would do and that they would do. Now we started doing what we had agreed to do, but they stopped doing what they had agreed to do. So the things ground to a halt. But we cannot have a situation where half the action, that means the action that we are meant to do, takes place and the actions that they are meant to take, do not take place. So we have to see that there is a equal movement on both sides. We have been willing to move, but in certain cases we have found that some of our neighbors have not been willing to move.

[Reporter] Now there are fairly good indications that the Pakistanis are even going to get the AWACS [word indistinct] aircraft. What are we going to do because our own AWACS program is very slow; it will take several years. What are your options? What are you going to do to offset the affect of that?

[Gandhi] Let me assure you that no matter what they do, our defense will never be compromised.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] Sometime back when Pakistan was giving you an offer of a no-war treaty and we came out with a counter-offer of treaty of friendship, peace, and cooperation, what has happened, now as there is no talk of a no-war pact or friendship treaty at the moment? Do you think that at some stage you are going to pick up the thread again, considering AWACS, Pakistan's nuclear threat, the growing military alliance between United States and Pakistan, the growing alliance — sort of alliance, between China and Pakistan. Are you going pick up the thread?

[Gandhi] Our offer for a treaty of friendship is open.

[Reporter] Are you going to take some initiative about it again?

[Gandhi] Well, there are one or two problems in our offer that Pakistan is not agreeing to. And I believe they are still there.

[Reporter] That was about bilateralism, one, and B [as heard] was about bases and facilities. I thought a third one had cropped up and that was of Pakistan's nuclear program. Is that an obstacle?

[Gandhi] No, we can have a treaty of peace and friendship and will be able to work it.

[Reporter] Even with a nuclear Pakistan?

[Gandhi] Well, they are not nuclear yet.

[Reporter] Thank you.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, you have very clearly stated here that Pakistan has not yet gone nuclear. You don't believe they have. But earlier, we had stated that India will have to reconsider its options. The time has not come for it.

[Gandhi] I think that they have a very active nuclear weapon program, which I belive they still have.

[Reporter] But they haven't yet gone nuclear, according to the....

[Gandhi, interrupting] To the information that I have got (?there about).

[Reporter] Right.

[Reporter] Pakistan has not yet gone nuclear. Are you suggesting that we should wait for them to go nuclear and then do something? and on AWACS also you said....

[Gandhi, interrupting] No, I don't think that was [words indistinct] and what you are asking was irrelevant to the question that was asked at all. The question was on the treaty.

[Reporter] Yes. But if they go nuclear what will be our option, I mean, are we preparing something right now? [words indistinct] [laughter]

[Gandhi] I said in Parliament if I remember my words correctly that our security will not suffer in any way.

[Reporter] The same goes for AWACS, sir?

[Gandhi] Same goes for AWACS.

[S. Viswam] That is what he said now that security will not be compromised. Mr Prime Minister, may I ask you a question in relation to the Indo-American relations? There are two views available in this country on this. One is after Mr Natwar Singh's visit and talks with leading American politicians and administrators it became very patent that they are not very... [changes thought] They are aware of our sensitivities and concerns in regard to arming Pakistan, but they couldn't care less. For them it's a life and death issue, and they are going to arm and finance and fund Pakistan, whatever it is. On the other hand, there is also this view, I mean this view would be predicated on the fact that relations are at a very low ebb. On the other hand, there is also this view that apart from the United States arming Pakistan and its attitude toward Pakistan, bilateral relations on other front is completely hunky-dory, and cooperation is going on in all fronts and there is nothing to complain. Now which of these is the view having impinging really on the development of our relations — A or B? Now they cut off 15 percent of the aid of $50 million. We got only 35 million but we took it. We didn't say we couldn't care less. We don't want the 50 million, keep it. Secondly, they have given us the impression that they will not give us the best of the super computer, they will give us only the second best and now we seem to be very anxious to accept even the second best. What is it in our relationship with America that makes us look as if we are real supplicants?

[Gandhi] I don't think the Americans would say that we look as if we are real supplicants and that's what you should ask. If you see the stand that we have taken on international issues, it's very clear.

[Reporter] I am not talking of disarmament and other things. I am talking purely on bilateral [word indistinct].

[Gandhi] Well, the whole package goes together. You see, you can't remove one thing and say you will look at only this. With the U.S. we have been trying to change our level of relations for the past 2 and 1/2 years. I feel that we have made a lot of progress, and a lot has been achieved. But there are certain basic blocks like you have said. In fact what I am saying is both views that you have said are partly true. There is a basic block in how the U.S. views this region; we have a difference of view on that. So, obviously that causes problems and the problems, and from that, AWACS comes out of that, bending rules on Pakistan's nuclear program comes out of that. Other weapon supplies to Pakistan comes out of that, which upsets us.

On the other side, on the technology side, on other relations, there has been a lot of improvement. There has been, at no time have we taken anything from the U.S. that we did not feel we needed, or that we felt is not exactly what we need. We have always chosen what we have wanted. We have evaluated it to see whether it is really what we want and then it has been our own decision on whether we want a particular technology or equipment or not. And that decision has been absolutely objective; it has not been pressed on us or pushed on us in any way. We have not lowered ourselves in accepting any such decision at any time. While talking about this, we cannot remove India's stand on international issues which have impinged on the actions that the U.S. has been taking. On many issues we have been very strongly against U.S. Government views; on others not so strongly. But these are on issues and if we feel that we have a strong position on a particular issue, that is our position. It doesn't matter if the U.S. likes it or the U.S. doesn't like it, or the Soviet Union likes it or the Soviet Union doesn't like it. That is our view, and we hold that view because we are nonaligned. That is our strength and there is no question of shifting or bending or succumbing to pressures in these areas. On the specific question of the computer, the offer is with us, we are getting the technical evaluation done, and as soon as we have the report, we will take a decision.

[Reporter] What do you think is your assessment, are you more successful in foreign policies or domestic policies?

[Gandhi] Well, we have been successful in many areas on both fronts. There have been problems also on both fronts. I don't want to deny that. But on the whole, I think, the successes far outweigh the problems.

[Reporter] Which areas do you think [words indistinct] you are successful on both the fronts?

[Gandhi] All right. As chairman, nonaligned, I think India made a very strong impression on the issues that are relevant to the nonaligned, to the major issues in front of the nonaligned; on apartheid, on South Africa, on Namibia, on disarmament; on issues that came up during our chairmanship, the attack on Libya for example, and various other tension points that came up. We took a very positive stand and the stand which has helped evolve directions for the nonaligned. On the domestic front, the economy of the country has seldom moved the way it is moving now. On the domestic tension areas, yes, Punjab is still a problem. But we have solved the problem in Assam. We have solved the problem in Mizoram. Kashmir was a mess in many ways, that is on the way to a solution. I don't say it is a solution yet, but it is on the way to a solution. So things have moved very positively. In spite of very bad monsoon, our agricultural production has not dropped. Industrial production has gone up. So on every front is moving quite well. Well, I may have to add one more thing on the foreign policy. We have improved relations with both the Soviet Union and the United States. Our relations with the Soviet Union have never been as strong as they are today and with the United States we have improved our relations tremendously in the past 2 years.

[Reporter] On foreign policy matters, Mr Prime Minister, Sweden seems to be proving rather a difficult customer. [laughter]

[Another reporter] The government has asked the Bofors Company to put forward the names of persons who are supposed to have received the money, 50 crore rupees. Yesterday, the chairman of the Nobel industry has expressed his inability to part with this information. Have we, through the government or directly, been informed about it, and how did we respond to it?

[Gandhi] No. I believe we have not got a response directly from Bofors yet. If I remember correctly, we had given them some timeframe to get a reply.

[Reporter] I think 15 days.

[Gandhi] And that would be, I think, this week ends those 15 days. So let us see, till we get a reply. It is only a few days more.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] get ready for a parliamentary probe?

[Gandhi] We have got nothing to hide on Bofors. Absolutely.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] there have been reports circulating here that you have already been given a list of names of people who....

[Gandhi, interrupting] No.

[Viswam] Yes, Pandit.

[Pandit] What will you do if Bofors does not give you the information you want?

[Gandhi] Well, let's see what information they give us. We cannot preempt to what they would give us or not give us.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] give you the names....

[Gandhi, interrupting] Let's see what they give us....

[Reporter, interrupting] Then they will persuade themselves to give you....

[Gandhi, interrupting] We have also written to the Swedish Government to release the deleted parts of the full audit report, basically. But what it means is the deleted parts of the audit report [word indistinct]

[Reporter] You know, the point is that the Nobel company has made a public statement that they are not obliged to give any further information to the Swedish Government because they have not broken any Swedish laws. The point at issue is if they have violated any Indian laws, it is up to the Indian Government to do something [words indistict] I suppose the question I have raised is [words indistinct]

[Gandhi] Well, there are two aspects of this. One, we will do whatever is required to be done by government. We will look into the aspects that you are raising. But, basically we would like the parliamentary committee to look at all these aspects. And we are waiting for Parliament to start so that the committee can sit down and start working.

[Reporter] When Mr Gorbachev was here, there were several specific proposals that were put forward pertaining to Indo-USSR relations. Has there been a follow-up of those... [changes thought] What is your evaluation of the follow-ups? What steps are being taken?

[Gandhi] There have been very effective follow-ups on almost all the fronts that had been taken up then. And this document that we will be signing in Moscow when I am there, is one of the follow-ups of that. We have had a very big Soviet scientific and technological group come to India. We have had a group of Indian scientists go to the Soviet Union, and there has never been an exchange of this level perhaps anywhere before.

[Viswam] Thank you very much, and all the other distinguished guests. May I again thank you for having spent the afternoon with us. Thank you.

Indefinite Curfew Extended to More Gujarat Areas

BK301616 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] In Gujarat indefinite curfew has been extended to some more areas under the Raupura and Karelibagh police stations in Baroda from 1500 this afternoon. This followed the death of one person in a stabbing incident and some stray incidents of stone throwing and arson. The city police commissioner told Ahmedabad correspondent that the situation in the curfew-bound Wadiand city police station areas is under control.

Khomeyni Approves Guide for Election of Imams
LD301240 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] In response to an enquiry from members of the Central Secretariat of Friday Imams about refraining from naming candidates or taking a position for or against those who announce their candidacy in the elections and using the podium of the Friday prayers for this purpose -- as well as the necessity of resigning from the post of Friday imam in order to take part in the elections and banning the activities of Friday prayer headquarters in favor of specific individuals -- Imam Khomeyni, while thanking the Secretariat of Friday Imams for their valuable services, expressed his agreement with this issue.

The text of the letter of enquiry of the nationwide Secretariat of Friday Imams and the text of the reply of his holiness the imam is as follows:

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. The blessed presence of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Holiness the Grand Ayatolah Imam Khomeyni, may his shadow long continue. After greetings and salutations, the Central Secretariat of Friday Imams throughout the country and after discussions and consultations has decided that it should present an enquiry to your blessed presence and, if you agree, you should make brotherly recommendations to the esteemed Friday imams throughout the country and the headquarters for Friday prayers.

1. On the basis of experience gained from the first and second round of elections to the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the surfacing of some differences in some towns, it is hereby announced to the honorable gentlemen that they should refrain from naming individuals as candidates, from taking a position for or against certain individuals, or from making use of the podium of Friday prayers for elections purposes.

2. In cases when some of the honorable Friday imams wish to declare their candidacy in future elections, it is necessary for them to resign from their post as Friday imam 3 months prior to the elections, so that the secretariat can take the necessary steps to replace them with suitable individuals.

3. The headquarters for Friday prayers is not entitled to use those who wish to become candidates as presermon speakers for 2 months before the elections. It is clear that the headquarters should make enquiries in advance from those invited.

4. The Secretariat amicably and humbly requests those honorable Friday imams who wish to take part in the Majlis elections not to leave the fortress of Friday imams and, as in the past, to continue their sincere services and efforts in their parish. They should know that the benefits of the services of these gentlemen is no less in the fortress of Friday prayers than in the fortress of the Islamic Consultative Assembly and that, by continuing to serve as Friday imams, they greatly satisfy Almighty God and the Hezbollahi nation. It is clear that if the above guidelines are violated the guilty Friday imam will be dismissed from his post as a Friday imam and the local headquarters for Friday prayers will be dismantled.

If the imam of the ummah agrees, the Friday imam and ad interim Friday imams of Tehran will be exempt from the above rules.

[Signed] The Central Secretariat of Friday Imams

The text of the reply of his holiness the imam is as follows:

In His exalted name. While expressing my thanks for the valuable services of the secretariat of Friday imams and to the honorable Friday imams of various towns, and beseeching Almighty God for the greater successes of all organizations and of the noble nation, I agree.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi al-Khomeyni

Details Guidance for Elections
LD011320 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 1 Jul 87

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, in reply to a question from four representatives of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Imam Khomeyni, in important recommendations, has declared as unauthorized any interference by any kind of organ and organization in elections in constituencies other than their own.

The use of religious donations and public funds in electioneering propaganda has also been declared unauthorized.

The imam has stressed that our people, thank God, possess the desired degree of religious and political development and they will themselves elect such people who are religious, aware of the agonies of the oppressed, aware of the religious and political problems, and who are in line with the dispossessed.

The text of the letter of the Majlis representatives reads as follows: In the name of Exalted God. To the sacred presence of the great leader of the Islamic revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, may his shadow continue to cover the heads of the Muslims. With greetings to that great imam.

During the previous elections, your excellency expressed your opposition to the nomination of candidates for various constituencies by political and religious parties and societies. With regard to the proximity of the elections for the third term of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, we ask our valued leader to reply to the following questions and enlighten all the people with regard to their religious duties.

1. In this term can various political and religious groups and societies from Tehran or Qom nominate candidates for various towns in Iran, or can candidates be nominated from one region for other regions?

2. Can anyone use religious donations and proceeds and/or public funds and/or government property, which are at the disposal of various organs, for propaganda for candidates?

[Signed] Mehdi Karrubi, Deputy Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly
Abdollah Nuri, Chairman of the Budget and Planning Committee
Hoseyn Hashemiyan, Chairman of the Petroleum Committee
Mohammad 'Ali Hadi, Member of the Defense Committee

The text of the reply by his holiness imam is as follows: In the name of Exalted God. Though such questions and answers are premature, the people must be free to elect whomever they want; we must not do anything to impose an individual on the people. Thanks to God, our people possess the desired degree of religious and political development and they themselves will elect people who are religious, aware of the agonies of the oppressed, aware of religious and political problems, and who are in line with the dispossessed. Under such circumstances, no individual, group, organ, organization, office, party, or assembly can interfere in the election in the constituency of others; nor can it nominate an individual or individuals for constituencies other than its own and carry out propaganda for them.

Under present conditions, under no circumstances will I permit any person to spend the proceeds from the exalted share of the imam [donations the faithful make for the infallible imams], peace be on him, nor from government properties, nor funds of offices, organizations, societies, and public funds for elections.

People must be encouraged to participate in the elections. God willing, I will declare my view in this regard later. The honorable clerics of the election constituencies must try to be like compassionate fathers to those individuals and Muslim groups in their constituencies who are candidates, or support the candidate of their choice; they must regard them with kindness. I ask of God success for you.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni
[Dated] 1 July 1987

Council of Experts Meets, Discusses Constitution

NC010518 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 1 Jul 87

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Council of Experts' Secretariat has announced that the second meeting of the fifth annual session of the Council was held last night under the chairmanship of Ayatollah Meshkini. During this meeting, recommendations on Clauses 107 and 109 of the Constitution were debated and discussed. The Council of Experts will continue its deliberations this afternoon.

Ayatollah Montazeri Meets With Judicial Council

LD301442 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] Qom, Central Prov., June 30, IRNA — Several members of the Supreme Judicial Council along with a group of judicial officials of the country met Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri here Monday. Welcoming the group, Ayatollah Montazeri expressed condolences for the sixth martyrdom anniversary of chief justice Ayatollah Beheshti and 72 of his close associates, including his own son Hojjat ol-Eslam Montazeri.

Ayatollah Montazeri appreciated services of all judicial officials and referred to the grave responsibilities they had undertaken from the religious point of view.

He called on theologians at Qom theological schools and other similar centers throughout the country who are competent enough to undertake this responsibility, to step in and fill the gap in the judicial system.

Ayatollah Montazeri also called on judicial officials to mobilise the public against spread of corruption and take a decisive stand against it.

He said that people should realise that the issue of drug addiction and spread of corruption had political dimensions.

Stressing that law should be applied to all people equally, whether weak or strong, Ayatollah Montazeri said that pursuit of convicts, even if they held key posts, not only would not weaken the system but would rather strengthen it, because, he said, the Islamic system relies on the people.

Meanwhile, officials of the Islamic Republic Air Lines and a group of pilots met Ayatollah Montazeri during the past two days. Ayatollah Montazeri prayed for the victory of Muslim forces of Iran and the combatant forces in Lebanon, Palestine and Afghanistan.

Spokesman Warns France on 'Harrassing' Diplomats

LD301928 Tehran IRNA in English 1859 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 30, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Ministry today condemned the French Government for making it needlessly hard for the Iranian subjects in France and for harrassing the Iranian Embassy staffers.

It also warned the French Government against the consequences of such behaviour.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the French police routinely search embassy staffers and outside callers upon entrance to embassy premises in a blatant violation of diplomatic protocols. He warned that where and when needed the Islamic Government would do anything necessary to safeguard the rights of its nationals in France.

He said that in the past the French Government had published unfounded claims in relation with the activities of Iranians in France, and that more recently it had clamped down on Iranians imposing unreasonable restrictions in denial of the basic rights of any foreign subject in that country.

The spokesman said earlier on members of the French Embassy in Tehran had been observed engaging in activities inconsistent with diplomatic customs, but that the Islamic Government had only warned them against their conduct without going to any

extreme action.

French Embassy Accused of 'Undiplomatic' Actions

LD010934 Tehran IRNA in English 0925 GMT 1 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 1, IRNA — It has been learned from informed sources that particularly one member of the French Embassy in Tehran bears "heavy charges" for engaging in undiplomatic activities. These sources told IRNA that there are "quite a lot" of information regarding the matter. They did not elaborate.

This came after Iran disclosed Tuesday that certain French Embassy staff in Tehran were understood to be engaged in undiplomatic and provocative activities.

According to an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, in one specific case, "there is no doubt that international regulations have been violated of which the French officials have also been informed."

The spokesman condemned the French Government's recent provocations in creating problems and bottlenecks for Iranian citizens in France including Iranian Embassy staff in Paris. He warned the Mitterrand government of the "dire consequences" of this hostile behavior.

The spokesman told IRNA that French officials had raised unfounded allegations against certain Iranian citizens in France in the French media for some time in order to create restrictions for some Iranian students and embassy staff in Paris. The Foreign Ministry spokesman regretted that the French Government had stationed police officers around the Iranian Embassy in Paris to question people entering and leaving the place including even the embassy staff.

The Islamic Republic Government will undoubtedly react firmly in defending the interests of the country and its citizens, the spokesman warned.

Prime Minister Interviewed on UN Forces, France

LD011236 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Jul 87

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] At the end of today's [cabinet] meeting Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi answered questions posed by our reporter about the formation of the UN peacekeeping forces in the Persian Gulf and recent moves by the French Government against Iranian diplomats in France. We draw your attention to this interview:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Mr Musavi, the UN secretary general has expressed his support for the formation of peace-keeping forces in the Persian Gulf. What would the reaction of the government of the Islamic Republic be if such forces were set up?

[Musavi] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Our foreign policy is based upon certain principles; our policies in the Persian Gulf follow the same principles. One of these principles is that we should do something to ensure that big powers do not get involved in regional issues. On the other hand, in connection with the Persian Gulf, we have announced that there is no problem. The only problem relates to Saddam, an aggressor who attacks ships and tankers. It is natural that this matter disrupts security in the region. As long as this matter continues there will be no security in the Persian Gulf. We have said that security is either for all or for none. We are the biggest power in the Persian Gulf, and it is unthinkable that we do not enjoy security while others do. For the same reason, we will follow this principle under any conditions.

With regard to this plan which is now being raised — namely, should UN forces come to the Persian Gulf — I think the Security Council should condemn the aggressor instead of making such a decision. This would quickly end the crisis and eliminate the tense atmosphere. The UN forces failed to achieve anything in Lebanon and could not create a calm atmosphere because the root of aggression — Zionism — continued to exist in the region. Naturally, this matter was against the interests of the Security Council, against the interests of the United Nations, and against the interests of all international organizations. The fact that the big powers use the United Nations as a cover for their forces and aims seems as if the UN secretary general is looking for solutions to reduce tension in the Persian Gulf, but we do not think that bringing the big powers' forces to the Persian Gulf under the pretext of a Security Council decision can solve any problem. I stated the main point earlier; namely, put pressure on Iraq so that this issue can be eliminated, otherwise insecurity will continue in the Persian Gulf.

[Reporter] During the last few days we have witnessed the moves of the French Government against Iranian diplomats in France. What is your evaluation concerning these French actions.

[Musavi] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has taken some steps in this connection. We are attempting to get further details. It is natural that any kind of pressure or limitations against our citizens and our diplomats abroad will not remain unanswered. Also, in connection with these restrictions, the popular forces normally will react. This is something the French Government should bear in mind.

[Reporter] Thank you. [end recording]

UK Diplomat Says Relations With Iran 'Stabilized'

LD301817 Tehran IRNA in English 1808 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Excerpt] London, June 30, IRNA — Reduced diplomatic relations to only a caretaker basis between Britain and Iran officially took effect Wednesday [as received] with respective envoys departing home.

Head of the British interests section Christopher Macrae returned to London Monday, leaving Third Secretary Visa Officer Paul Ramsay as the sole representative in the Iranian capital. Charge d'Affaires Mehdi Akhundzadeh is staying as the remaining Iranian diplomat in London.

Speaking after his arrival at London Airport, Macrae said that

the situation is over with relations now "stabilised." Other Britons returning from Tehran expressed their regret about having to leave Iran saying that they had been "very happy" there.

The diplomatic row between Britain and Iran broke out following the arrest of Vice-Consul Ahmad Qassemi in the northern city of Manchester. At the time Iran had 24 accredited diplomats in the U.K., including 5 at Manchester, while Britain had 19 in Tehran. The dispute in the Qassemi case centred not only over his diplomatic immunity, commonly applied to negate arrest, but in his complaints that he was also beaten by the British police.

London made subsequent allegations about the treatment of British diplomat Edward Chaplin following his temporary detention of charges of involvement with gold and drug smuggling. [passage omitted]

Diplomats Arrive from UK

NC010546 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 1 Jul 87

[Text] Following the measures taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran to recall its diplomats and staff members from its embassy in Great Britain, 13 diplomats and employees of the Islamic Republic's Embassy in that country arrived with their families in Tehran this morning. They were welcomed by officials from the Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry.

Khamene'i Attends Missile Maneuvers, Discusses U.S.

LD010858 Tehran IRNA in English 0836 GMT 1 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 1, IRNA — President and head of the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i Tuesday described Iran's missile power as "an independent and prime determining factor".

President Khamene'i, speaking after witnessing the last stage of the five-day "Tabuk-313" missile maneuvers in Central Iran, said these maneuvers were a manifestation of sincere efforts of a group of devoted people. "Tabuk" is the name of a place in present Saudi Arabia where the last battle of Prophet Mohammad (SAW) against Arab tribes under Roman domination took place in which Muslims won the battle. The maneuvers were conducted by the independent missile brigade of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC).

Khamene'i disclosed that during the maneuvers very young people reported to him on various stages of the operations, showing that they were fully competent and well informed.

On the role of the missile unit in the Iraqi imposed war, President Khamene'i said Iran had always used its missiles as a deterrent force. Elaborating on the issue, he said as Iran was not the initiator of the war, it tried to use its missiles as little as possible. But, he stressed, whenever the missiles were employed, they dealt fatal blows on the Iraqi enemy. He added at present it was difficult to conduct a war in the absence of missile facilities. However, due to the complexity of missiles, most Third World countries were dependent on others, the president said, adding that Iran had achieved outstanding independence in this vital field.

Commenting on recent statements of the U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz that nothing was more humiliating for the U.S. than leaving the Persian Gulf waters, President Khamene'i said that even more humiliating would be the time when the U.S. receives blows. "If the U.S. withdraws from the Persian Gulf it has done a reasonable job," President Khamene'i said.

He added, "because we are very sensitive towards issues in the Persian Gulf" the U.S. would receive such a blow that neither the American public nor the Congress would ever forgive their (administration's) folly.

On the U.N. Secretary General de Cuellar's recent visit to the Soviet Union and his talks with Soviet officials on what is being referred to as a new plan to stop the Iraq-Iran war, President Khamene'i said the plan had not been officially discussed with Iran.

"Iran's stance is clear and has been announced clearly. No change has been made in our stance which is known by the entire world," he declared.

After witnessing the missile maneuvers, President Khamene'i attended a gathering of the brigade's personnel in which he indicated that through revolutionary spirit all problems would be overcome.

Referring to the Iraqi imposed war, the SDC head said despite the propaganda fuss of the Iraqi enemy and its threats, Iran was approaching the (victorious) end of the battle. He emphasized that by "end" he meant dealing a decisive blow on the enemy, not only on the foe which was fighting Iran on the borders, but rather the big international arch enemy which was behind the aggressor Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

President Khamene'i said contrary to the situation of international arrogance which was fa[illegible] with a dead end and surrounded by negative elements, the Islamic Republic enjoys an over-all opportunity. Therefore, the enemy which was relying on the U.S. and its supporters, would sustain damage whether it confronts the Islamic Republic of Iran or not.

Reiterating Iran's missile power, the President said that until recently Iran did not have these facilities in its possession but through sincere efforts all hurdles have been passed and now Iran was able to confront imperialism itself.

"Imperialism does not stand a chance to remain safe by confronting us in the Persian Gulf," the president noted.

"Tabuk-313" missile maneuvers, witnessed by the head of the Supreme Defence Council, are annual maneuvers of the independent missile brigade of the IRGC to test its combat readiness for possible missions in the Persian Gulf.

IRGC Commander Mohsen Rezai'e, IRGC minister Mohsen Rafiqdust, Air Force Commander Brigadier General Sattari,

President's Military Adviser Brigadier Salimi, SDC Member Brigadier General Seyyed Shirazi and a number of other ranking military and civilian officials were also present in the ceremony.

Larijani, Soviet Official Meet in Geneva

LD301426 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Mr Larijani, the economic and international affairs secretary in our country's Foreign Ministry, who is leading a delegation in Geneva to attend the disarmament conference, met the Soviet deputy foreign minister on Monday.

On the basis of reports received, bilateral relations, the Persian Gulf issue, the imposed war, and regional topics were discussed during this meeting.

Further Reportage on Visit of Nicaraguan Official

Meets With Musavi

LD301447 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Mr Carlos Nunez, president of the Nicaraguan National Assembly, accompanied by that country's culture and planning ministers, this morning met and conferred with Prime Minister Musavi. The meeting was also attended by Mr Mo'ayeri, the political deputy of the prime minister, and Mr Seyyed Zadeh, a member of the managing board of the Islamic Majlis.

In the course of this meeting, the president of the Nicaraguan National Assembly, referring to various military and economic measures employed by the United States against Nicaragua and the Central American region, said that despite the heavy pressure exerted by imperialism, we have succeeded in neutralizing attacks of the counterrevolution, and the present situation is in our favor.

Concerning the support provided by the Islamic Revolution for Nicaragua, he said: We highly value this vital support.

Afterwards, Mr Marenco, Nicaraguan planning minister, explained his country's economic situation.

The Nicaraguan culture minister, who is a famous poet and writer of Central America and the Christian world, expressed hope that Imam Khomeyni's holy face will be better recognized in the world day by day as the only spiritual and revolutionary face. He also said: Revolutionary Muslims and Christians can unite under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, and this unity will not only deliver a deadly blow to imperialism and reactionaries all over the world, it will also be registered as a historic world event.

In reply, the prime minister, referring to the Islamic revolution's special respect for the sacred movement of revolutionary Christianity, said: No doubt closer links between Islam and revolutionary Christianity will greatly transform the world. The prime minister stressed that when pressure is exerted on the United States from one corner of the world, it reduces the United States pressure on other regions.

Mr Musavi also added that the method employed by the United States to crush the people and revolutions is the same in various regions of the world. We, too, after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, witnessed the counterrevolution setting ablaze stacks of harvested wheat. The Iraqi regime has also attacked our economic installations. Therefore, the struggle of nations all over the world should be linked, and all Third World countries should help one another.

Received by President Khamene'i

LD301347 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i received Mr Carlos Nunez, president of the Nicaraguan National Assembly, Monday afternoon. During this meeting, Mr Nunez conveyed warm and sincere greetings from his country's president, Mr Daniel Ortega. Mr Nunez said that the goal of his trip to the Islamic Republic of Iran is to bring closer the views and stances of the two countries in international meetings, particularly in the upcoming interparliamentary conference. He added that the unity and solidarity of the two countries' views can play an effective role in solving the nonaligned countries' problems and difficulties. In fact, he added, consultation between the friendly and progressive states is unavoidable.

He further added: My delegation and I, during our stay in the Islamic Republic of Iran, were deeply impressed by the deep culture, national resources, unity, solidarity, and revolutionary morale of your people. During this visit, by observing the revolutionary morale of your people, I realized that only a mad man would have dared to face the people of Iran and attack your country. Concluding his remarks, the president of the Nicaraguan National Assembly conveyed the formal invitation of his country's president to Mr Khamene'i to visit Nicaragua.

Afterwards President Khamene'i, while stressing the need for coordination among the progressive states before attending any international meeting, said: We strongly believe that the front of the progressive and revolutionary states should, as far as possible, act with coordination and greater solidarity.

On the basis of the old central news report, during the same meeting, Mr Nunez presented a special message from Mr Daniel Ortega, the president of Nicaragua, to our country's president.

Media, Cultural Agreement Signed

LD010154 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, at the conclusion of a visit by Carlos Nunez, president of the Nicaraguan National Assembly, and his accompanying delegation, a draft agreement on cultural matters in the fields of the arts, journal-

ism, radio, and television, as well as exchanges of cultural experts and university cooperation, was signed by Islamic Guidance Minister Khatami and the Nicaraguan culture minister at the Tehran airport.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD301420 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Mr Carlos Nunez, president of the Nicaraguan National Assembly, and his accompanying delegation, Monday night left Tehran for Managua, the capital of Nicaragua. During the 2-day stay in Iran, the Nicaraguan delegation met and conferred with our country's officials. The delegation was officially seen off by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Majlis, and the ministers of Islamic guidance and budget and planning.

Reportage on Visit of SFRY Finance Minister

Arrives in Tehran

LD290814 Tehran IRNA in English 0620 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 29, IRNA — Yugoslavian Finance Minister Svetozar Rikanovic heading a high-ranking delegation arrived here late Sunday to participate in the sixth joint session of the two countries' finance ministers. He was welcomed at the airport by Iranian Minister of Economy and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javan Iravani. The Yugoslav delegation during its 5-day visit will meet high-ranking Iranian officials including ministers of oil, commerce, roads and transport as well as economy and finance.

Iravani told IRNA that in the joint ministerial session the letter of understanding signed in Belgrade in March 1986 will be reviewed and prospects for future economic cooperation will be discussed. Iravani said the session will start its work Tuesday by setting up trade, oil, economic, financial, industrial and technical committees and will take decisions on the existing cooperations in the fields of agro-industry, oil, power stations, power transformation lines, trade exchanges, as well as transportation.

Rikanovic in a short interview expressed hope that Tehran-Belgrade trade and economic exchanges would further expand.

Holds Talks With Iravani

LD291316 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] The first round of talks between the economic delegations of Yugoslavia and the Islamic Republic of Iran were held this morning. According to our correspondent, in the opening session of the joint meeting of ministers from the two countries, which is being held within the framework of economic cooperation between Iran and Yugoslavia, Iravani, the minister of economy and finance, said: We have been able to note considerable development in the expansion of our relations with Islamic countries, nonaligned countries, and with the Third World generally. With the implementation of these policies the volume of exchanges involving the Islamic Republic of Iran increased from 4 percent in the years before the revolution to 28 percent in the years after the revolution. [sentence as heard] This policy will be further strengthened and will continue.

[SFRY Finance Minister] Rikanovic expressed the readiness of his country to expand relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran as much as possible, and added that his country is willing to expand relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran in all fields, especially in technical and industrial fields.

The same report adds: Discussions were then held in specialized committees such as the committee on economic and financial cooperation, the committee in charge of commerce and oil, and the committee on scientific, energy, and agricultural cooperation.

Briefs Prime Minister Musavi

LD302128 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Excerpt] Tehran, June 30, IRNA — Visiting Yugoslav Finance Minister Svetozar Rikanovic briefed Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi on outcome of his talks with Iranian officials in a meeting here today. Rikanovic said his country is keen on expanding of mutual ties with Iran.

In reply Prime Minister Musavi expressed hope that Tehran-Belgrade relations would further expand.

The Yugoslav minister heading a delegation arrived here late Sunday to participate in the sixth joint Iran-Yugoslavia economic commission meet. [passage omitted]

Meets With Industries Minister

LD302130 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 30, IRNA — Ways to expand Tehran-Belgrade economic and industrial cooperation were explored in a meeting here Tuesday between visiting Yugoslav Finance Minister Svetozar Rikanovic and Iranian Minister of Industries Gholam Reza Shafe'i.

During the meeting, Shafe'i said that Yugoslavia can supply Iran with paper, pulp, cotton fibres, and raw materials used in chemical industries. Yugoslavia can upgrade mutual economic relations to a desired level by supplying industrial raw materials to Iran, investing in industrial units and importing Iranian non-oil goods, Shafe'i said.

He also called on Rikanovic to look into why Yugoslav companies had not fulfilled their obligations concerning their contracts in Iran including a 2,000-ton PVC raw materials contract.

Rikanovic said in reply that his country was ready to transfer technological know-how and machinery to Iran and was interested in supplying Iran with electronic components on buy-back basis.

Confers With Zali

LD302133 Tehran IRNA in English 1838 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Excerpt] Tehran, June 30, IRNA — Iran has made significant gains in the field of agriculture since the 1979 Islamic revolution, Agriculture Minister 'Abbas 'Ali Zali told visiting Yugoslav Finance Minister Svetozar Rikanovic here today.

Expansion of scientific, technical, agricultural, and fisheries cooperation between Iran and Yugoslavia was called for in the meeting, in which the two officials expressed their countries' readiness to exchange experts. [passage omitted]

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Iraqi Plane Shot Down

LD011053 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Jul 87

[Text] According to the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at 0953 today the air defense unit of the Islamic Republic of Iran fired on an invading Iraqi aircraft. The aircraft was destroyed in the operational zone north of Panjwin.

Surprise Attack Launched

LD301151 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] According to a report issued by Khatem ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the center for guiding operations by the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the Islamic Army, along with the forces of the KDP [Kurdish Democratic Party] of Iraq, continuing the victorious "Fath-7" operations, launched a surprise attack last night against an Iraqi mountain infantry battalion in the Rishan region. Our fighters seized a number of Iraqi forces, killing and injuring tens of them, and captured quantities of military equipment.

The same report adds: At another axis near Sayyid Sadiq, the Islamic combatants, accompanied by Kurdish combatants of Iraq and supported by the artillery units of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, attacked Iraqi regime forces attempting to destroy villages around Sayyid Sadiq. They killed numerous enemy forces and set fire to bulldozers and other engineering equipment.

A fierce blaze was started in the course of another assault against a military position 2 km from Sayyid Sadiq and Shanah Dari. It destroyed more than 70 percent of the Zionist enemy bases in the locality and killed numerous enemy forces.

The same report further indicates that the forces under the command of Ramadan headquarters, the center for irregular warfare of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, destroyed Zionist enemy bases around Sayyid Sadiq and (Saray Salman Aqa). They also fired on a military camp at Bustanesar, near Arbat, setting ablaze several buildings and stocks of ammunition belonging to the Zionist enemy. The attack also inflicted casualties and heavy losses on the forces of the Iraqi regime. In the same region, logistical and motor pool equipment of the Iraqi 27th Division, including 50 military vehicles, was set ablaze and destroyed.

Iraqi Munitions Depot Destroyed

LD301548 Tehran IRNA in English 1442 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] Orumiyeh, (W. Azarbayjan Prov.) June 30, IRNA — An Iraqi munitions depot was set afire and demolished during a series of attacks by Peshmerga of Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) in Kharnuk and Chevanan [spellings as received], northern Iraq during the past few days, killing or wounding a number of Iraqi Ba'thist troops.

Meanwhile, according to reports KDP Peshmerga in Shaqlawa, Share Mazavar [spelling as received] and Qarah Dagh killed several Ba'thist troops, captured a number of others, and set afire several military vehicles carrying government troops and returned safely to their bases.

Iraqi Vehicles 'Demolished'

LD301549 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, Jun 30, IRNA — An Iraqi armored vehicle and a command jeep were demolished and their crews killed during an ambush by Peshmerga of Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdestan (PUK) along the Chamchal-Anjir [name as received] Pass on Sulaymaniyah-Kirkuk Axis two nights ago.

Ramadan Headquarters further reported that the Peshmerga participating in the operations returned safely to their bases.

Communique No 2883

LD301654 Tehran IRNA in English 1642 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 30, IRNA — One civilian was martyred and another wounded in an Iraqi bombing of a village around the northwestern city of Baneh, Kurdistan Province, at 07:30 GMT Monday, said a military communique here Tuesday.

The 2883rd Joint Staff Communique said that Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed Iraqi positions north of Panjwin theater, northwestern fronts, at 04:40 and 07:30 GMT today, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on enemy troops, and returning safely to base.

At least 35 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and 10 enemy gun emplacements and one vehicle-mounted 106 mm gun destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts yesterday when shelled by Iranian ground and gendarmerie forces.

Throughout the fronts, Muslim forces of Iran continued their artillery duels with Iraqi troops Monday, inflicting several casualties on enemy forces and destroying some enemy gun

emplacements. Several enemy vehicles were also set afire in Marivan, northwestern fronts.

Exchange of artillery fire continued throughout the fronts yesterday raging somewhat more heavily in Zayd and Majnun Islands where Iraqi forces suffered substantial casualties and losses.

Iranian patrol convoys disarrayed Iraqi forces and inflicted heavy losses in men and equipment on the enemy troops throughout the fronts yesterday.

Movements of Iraqi vehicle columns were checked in Mehran and Yebis by artillery fire of Iranian Mualim combatants Monday, the communique concluded.

Gulf Exercises Successful

LD301716 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] The 8-day "Zolfaqar-2" maneuver ended today. It was a complete success. During the exercise, various techniques of sea battle and modern military systems were employed. Our correspondent reports on the end of this maneuver:

[Unidentified correspondent] The great "Zolfaqar-2" maneuver ended successfully today after 8 days of utilizing various techniques of sea battle and undertaking sophisticated military operations. The maneuver was held in the blue waters of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman. [passage indistinct]

Clandestine Radio Claims Khomeyni 'Seriously Ill'

NC011150 (Clandestine) Voice of the Kavyani Banner of Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] Ruhollah Khomeyni is seriously ill, and Iranian and foreign physicians [3-second break in transmission]. Our cocombatants, quoting one of the doctors attending Ruhollah Khomeyni, report that he has been diagnosed as having only 3 to 5 months to live. Other reports state that Khomeyni's condition has deteriorated seriously since yesterday, and Iranian doctors attending him have (?no hope) for his recovery.

We remind you that the Islamic Republic's officials know perfectly well that Ruhollah Khomeyni is in the last years of his life. The chief of the Supreme Judicial Council, Musavi-Ardabili, stated this openly in the presence of some Islamic judges some days ago and asked Khomeyni to delineate some of the functions of the judiciary and explain some Islamic laws. However, Khomeyni, who seems to sense that his time is short, did not give a definitive answer, saying that the judiciary will gradually reform itself.

Our cocombatants report that with the revelation of Khomeyni's worsening condition, rivalry among the mullahs' factions on the question of succession has become more intense.

According to our cocombatants from Tehran, the resumption of the Council of Experts' session has once again raised the question of a successor to Ruhollah Khomeyni as a major topic of the day. The reelection of Meshkini as chief of the Council of Experts and Hashemi-Rafsanjani as his deputy proves that the clique favoring Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Ahmad Khomeyni is still stronger than the other factions.

Our cocombatants add: Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri's supporters' efforts to prevent the election of Meshkini and Hashemi-Rafsanjani failed, and they could not convince Hashemi-Rafsanjani's (?supporters) to favor Montazeri or vote for the candidates of Khomeyni's officially designated successor.

According to our cocombatants report, Khomeyni's imminent demise has placed the Islamic regime's ruling party in a crisis situation. This rivalry is expected to erupt into fresh confrontations in the coming weeks.

NEPAL

'Full Text' of King's 19 Jun Policy Address

BK261033 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 20 Jun 87 p 5

[Text] The following is the full text of the Royal Address by His Majesty the King to the thirty eighth Session of the Rushtriya Panchayat [parliament] on Friday [19 June].

Chairman and Members of the Rashtriya Panchayat.

We are pleased to address the 38th session of Rashtriya Panchayat which is committed to the ideals adopted by the nation and represents the entire Nepalese people. The enthusiasm that was seen throughout the country during the recently completed elections for local Panchayats and the local levels of class organizations has further strengthened the partyless democratic Panchayat System. It is satisfying to note that the entire country is advancing along the path set by the System leading to the supreme well-being of the nation. It is not the deeds and words creating confusion amongst the people, but the devotion to the task of upliftment of the nation and the healthy and constructive thinking, practice and participation based on the realities in the country, that contribute qualitatively to the strength of the democracy.

My government has already formulated policies and programmes aimed at meeting basic needs for food, clothing, housing, education, health and security with the objective of uplifting the living standard of the Nepalese people by the year 2000 A.D. to a level appropriate for human dignity in the Asian context. To attain this goal, my government will proceed to implement the programme by setting specific targets to be achieved in each fiscal year by the annual development programme and the resource allocation. In this process, my government will formulate programmes for the coming fiscal year in accordance with the target of completing, during the remaining period of the Seventh Plan, prerequisites for the achievement of the basic needs programme goal schedules of implementation along with clear identification of responsible institutions and the officials will be fixed. Based on these schedules, arrangements will be made at various levels for regular follow-up and monitoring of the progress.

The challenge of the day is to accelerate the pace of economic growth. For this, all economic policies including investment policies will have to be firm and clear. The structural adjustment programme adopted by my government since last year with a view to achieving a higher rate of economic growth and stability has started to show positive results. Therefore, this programme will be continued in the coming year also. Thus, in adopting fiscal and monetary policies for the next year the present emphasis on increasing revenue, reducing government budgetary deficits and controlling domestic credit will be continued.

Costs and benefits of all projets will be evaluated and priority will be given to the projects with high net benefit to the economy. My government will pay attention to provide adequate resources for the operation, repair, maintainance and security of the completed projects to maximize the utilization of their capacities.

In view of the importance of the agricultural sector in our economy, this sector continues to be accorded with top priority. In addition to the programmes aimed at maximizing production of major food grains, specific programmes will also be launched to increase productions of fruits, vegetables, fish, meat and milk. In this context, my government will adopt the policy of enhancing private sector participation as well as increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the government entities in order to improve the availability of chemical fertilizer, seeds, agri-equipment, credits and extension services to the farmers. Attention will be given to the programmes aimed at fair prices, marketing and growing facilities with a view to encouraging the farmers to produce more. Research programmes on the development and extension of improved technology will be addressed to finding solution of the problems of the farmers.

My government will strive to make irrigation programmes more extensive. Emphasis will be given to increase the capacity of existing irrigation systems, to pay more attention to repair and maintenance works and speed up the pace of implementation of projects under construction. To encourage implementation of irrigation projects at the local level with people's participation, my government will extend technical and financial supports for the construction of complex structural works, wherever necessary. Besides, necessary support will be provided for the construction of structures so as to make the nongovernmental canals, constructed and operated by the farmers, more reliable and lasting. The scheme of providing subsidized bank credits for farmers' irrigation projects will be further expanded more effectively. My government will adopt the policy of gradually increasing the financing of irrigation development programmes with domestic resources.

Programmes such as Small Farmers Development, Women Development and Intensive Banking, addressed to the needs and upliftment of small farmers, women and economically weaker section of the people, will be strengthened and expanded.

In view of the experience and achievements made so far, Land Reform Programme will be further intensified to meet the objectives of agricultural development and social justice. My government will cause to implement expeditiously the provisions of the relevant Act designed to bring about modern reforms in Guthi land. Sajha institutions will be further strengthened and involved in the supply of commodities of basic needs and production inputs of the farmers as well as in the marketing services for their output in the rural areas.

In order to develop the forest resources, so as to meet the demands of the households and the industries, while preserving the natural environment, afforestation programmes in the the Panchayat and private forests will be intensified. Forest-based industries will be encouraged to participate in afforestation programmes for meeting their own raw material requirements. My government will undertake necessary measures to adopt scientific land use and forest management system for the balanced development of the forestry sector. In association with King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation, the scientific research and study and the management of the national parks for the protection and propagation of nature and wildlife, that constitute important resources of the country, will be continued.

In line with the policy of encouraging private sector in the industrial development, my government will present a bill in this session for the amendment of the relevant Act to provide appropriate incentives, facilities and protection to the private sector. It will also pursue the policy of providing special incentives to industries producing textiles, shoes and sandals, cement, bricks and construction materials, paper, pencils and other education materials, medicine and health related equipment to help meet basic needs. In the cottage and village industry sector, appropriate protection and incentive will be given to those industries which aim at developing and using indigenous technology, generating additional, employment, utilizing mineral and other indigenous raw materials and increasing productivity through the use of advanced technology. Licensing policy will be liberalized for the promotion of industries in the private sector. Formalities with regard to providing facilities for the establishment and operation of industries will be simplified.

Liberal policy pursued in the foreign trade sector will continue. Exports will be promoted through incentive measures while the imports will be streamlined in relation to domestic production and consumption, so as to correct the imbalance in the foreign trade sector. Policy to provide foreign exchange will be further liberalized for the importation of essential consumer goods and raw materials required for industries. My government will strive to make the goods of daily consumption of the people easily available. In order to alleviate hardship of the people in general, price line will be regularly kept under vigilance and timely measures will be taken as warranted. Policy of maintaining adequate stock of essential goods will be continued.

My government will bring into effect the site and service development and regulated land development programmes for housing in the context of the basic needs by encouraging the role of private sector. The policy in the housing programme emphasizes the private sector's role, for the encouragement of which appropriate supports will be provided.

Taking into account the increase in tourism this year, my government will pay attention to the expansion of adequate facilities and services so as to achieve further growth in this sector. Programmes designed to develop potential places with the objectives of attracting more tourists and also lengthening their stay, and thus maximizing the retention of income within Nepal from the tourism, will be implemented. The private sector will be encouraged in these programmes.

My government has the policy to provide free primary education to children of 6 to 10 years age and to eventually provide them with text-books for grade 1 to 5 free of costs. To begin with the free textbooks will be made available to 4th and 5th grade boys also in the remote areas from the next fiscal year. Special programme of incentives will be initiated to increase the girls' enrollment in primary schools. Attention will be given to improve the quality of education through incentives and competition. The inspection system will be strengthened to improve the teaching and learning in schools. Policy to accord priority to technical education producing skilled manpower needed for the national development will be continued.

Consistent with the policy of providing primary health care facilities to all the Nepalese, organizational structures of health related institutions will be improved and strengthened. Special attention will be given to improve the quality of services provided by hospitals and health posts for the prevention and treatment of infectious as well as other serious diseases. The private sector will also be encouraged to establish and operate hospitals, health posts and nursing homes.

In order to achieve the target of reducing the population growth rate below 2 percent per annum by the year 2000 A.D., the family planning programme will be implemented more effectively on priority basis through governmental and nongovernmental organizations. Greater emphasis will be given to the implementation of mother and child care programmes such as vaccination to babies and children, rehydration and nutrition programmes.

Additional efforts will be made towards self-sufficiency in the domestic production of essential drugs included in the national list by providing incentives to the private sector as well.

With the objective of expanding the facilities of drinking water supply, my government will adopt the policy of implementing drinking water projects extensively with the initiative of the Panchayats and the people's participation. My government will undertake formulation and implementation of both short term and long term programmes in the urban areas where supply of drinking water has to be improved.

In the process of developing the road transport in a planned way my government will continue in the coming year to gradually undertake the constructions of the East-West Highway, the North-South Highways and the subsidiary roads to connect the regional, zonal, and district headquarters with the highways. Maintenance of the completed road projects will be stressed. In accordance with the decentralization policy, the local Panchayats will be responsible for the construction of the internal roads within the district with the people's participation. My government will provide necessary incentives and support to such efforts of local Panchayats.

In the process of developing the power sector in a planned way necessary arrangements will be made to implement the hydropower project which ensures long term economic benefits from the investment. Extension of transmission lines along with the electrification of the rural areas will be emphasized.

The transmission of television programme will be extended beyond Kathmandu Valley. My government will continue to improve communication services such as postal and wireless services, telecommunications, radio broadcasting, press etc.

My government will take necessary actions to support academies, universities and schools of different levels which provide supports to all-round national growth by contributing to the development of language and literature, art and culture, knowledge, science and technology. The institutional growth of the newly established Mahendra Sanskrit University will be taken care of. My government will extend necessary co-operation and support to the Pashupati Area Development Trust constituted to preserve, maintain and develop Pashupati area. The policy of providing

encourangement and support for the development of sports and extra-curricular activities in the education sector will be continued.

Special programmes will be implemented to provide employment opportunities and income-generating sources to the people below poverty line. My government will take necessary actions to develop skilled labour force through expanding vocational and technical training facilities and to utilize the domestic labour force in the employment opportunities available in the country.

As envisaged in the Decentralization Act, it is well known that local Panchayats are especially responsible for the formulation and implementation of plans and programmes for the development of villages, towns and districts. The performance of local Panchayats will be evaluated in terms of success achieved in the formulation and implementation of local projects, in accordance with the objectives and policies of Decentralization, with the highest priority accorded to the programme for fulfilment of the basic needs. In order to provide support to the local Pachayats, various administrative units set up a the district and the project levels in pursuance of the Decentralisation Act will be strengthened.

The security organization responsible for maintaining peace, security, law and order in the country will be strengthened, well-equipped and trained in the process of modernization. Security of the development structures created with huge investments and efforts will be attended to. My government will give due consideration to the security aspect as an integral part of the development projects. The plan to modernize and strengthen the Royal Nepalese Army will be continued. The programme of expansion of the Police establishment and making it well-equipped and trained will be continued as planned.

The steps initiated in a phased way in the previous years to improve the administrative procedures and the organizational structures to make the civil service strong efficient and motivated to the service of the people will be continued in the coming year. the offices having direct contact with the public will be made more service-oriented. With the responsibilities of the civil servants clearly defined and the system of performance evaluation improved, the reward and punishment system will be effectively put into practice.

In order to discourage the abuse of power and temptation to take undue benefits, my government will further strengthen and activate the institutions entrusted with the task of controlling corruption.

Our foreign policy has been to make Nepal a zone of peace and to extend and strengthen friendly relations with all the countries of the world based on our strong faith in non-alignment peaceful co-existence and the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. In accordance with those principles, my government will continue to strengthen existing friendly relations with the neighbouring countries, member nations of SAARC and other friendly countries.

Nepal actively participated in the Second Summit Meeting of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, held in Bangalore, India last year, which was established with the objective of promoting regional co-operation, peace, stability and interdependence in South Asia. We have taken the establishment of the SAARC Secretariat in Kathmandu in January this year as a significant step towards institutional consolidation of the organisation. We are confident that the Third Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government this year will receive co-operation from all the people of Nepal.

We presented Nepal's views in the Eighth Non-Aligned Summit Conference held in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe last year as an active participant. Our state visit to the Federal Republic of Germany has resulted in further enhancement of friendship and co- coperation with that country. Our official visit to Zimbabwe and friendly visits to Seychelles, Tanzania, Zambia, Kenya, Oman, Egypt, Austria and United Arab Emirates have contributed in promoting the existing friendship and understanding with those countries. The visits of His Excellency President Lt Gen Hussain Mohammad Ershad of Bangladesh, His Excellency President Ciani Zail Singh of India, His Excellency President Nicolae Ceausescu of Socialist Republic of Romania have enhanced the existing friendly relations with those countries. We are confident that the visit of His Imperial Highness Prince Naruhito of Japan to Nepal has further strengthened our friendly relations with Japan. Exchange of visits at various levels with neighbouring friendly country China has been fruitful.

Lastly, we are confident that my government will receive co-operation from all in its efforts to achieve broader objectives of economic and social development by fulfilling the basic needs of the people below poverty line, while consolidating the existing political stability in the country and adopting cautiously firm meesures for the long term benefit of the nation. It is the duty of all to consolidate the political stability. We are confident that my government will, as always, receive understanding and co-operation of all in every action to be taken for the welfare of the people and the nation.

May Lord Pashupatinath bless us all!

Jai Nepal! [Hail Nepal!]

Parliament Member Demands Party System

BK280924 Hong Kong AFP in English
1212 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Kathmandu, June 27 (AFP) — Members of the national Panchayat, Nepal's Parliament, have called for stern action against a colleague who demanded the revival of the party system, a parliamentary source said Saturday.

Padma Ratna Tuladhar, a pro-Marxist-Leninist elected in the Kathmandu District in May 1986, called for a party system in officially partyless Nepal during a Panchayat session Friday, the source said.

His speech caused anger and confusion in the house, with some members saying it contravened Nepal's partyless Constitution, the source said.

But Mr. Tuladhar said: "I am not acting in contravention of the provisions of the Constitution. It is illegal to discuss multi-party politics in the house. Nevertheless, it is not so to put such political demands."

When Mr. Tuladhar expressed his views, several members strongly protested against his demand and asked National Panchayat Chairman Nawa Raj Subedi to take "stern action" against him.

Mr. Subedi reminded the legislators that all National Panchayat members should respect the Constitution while speaking in the House.

But former Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa said: "Mr. Tuladharshold not be penalised for exercising his freedom of speech (as) guaranteed by the Constitution."

Analysts said Mr. Thapa was emerging as one of the strongest critics of Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha's Government.

A noted royalist and moderate member, Drona Shumshere Rana, said: "An opposition bench should be established in the house to make the partyless polity more effective."

Under Nepal's Constitution, National Panchayat members have the right to criticise the government, but there is no provision for an opposition.

Tamil 'Terrorists' Ambush, Kill 12 Soldiers

BK301107 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1052 GMT 30 Jun 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, June 30 (*Lanka Puwath*) — A Sri Lanka Army engineering regiment who are building a road from Madujapulam to Maradammadukulam near Kokilai in the Trincomalee District, eastern Sri Lanka were ambushed by separatist terrorists this morning and 12 soldiers were killed, the Media Centre in Colombo told *Lanka Puwath*.

Security Forces Discover Point Pedro Arms Factory

BK300745 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0712 GMT 30 Jun 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, June 30 (*Lanka Puwath*) — Separatist terrorists fired mortars at the newly established security forces camp at Idaikadu off Thondamanar in the Jaffna District last night, the Media Centre in Colombo told *Lanka Puwath* today.

Yesterday, a security forces patrol discovered an abandoned factory at Point Pedro, northern Sri Lanka, where mortar bombs and mines had been manufactured by terrorists. The patrol found two moulds which had been used for the manufacture of claymore mines. They also recovered a stock of paraffin wax and a large stock of medicine including saline bottles.

At Kudiruppu in the Batticaloa District, eastern Sri Lanka a Special Task Force patrol killed one terrorist and recovered his arms and ammunition last Sunday.

Villagers Ask LTTE Leader Not To Return Home

BK010959 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0942 GMT 1 Jul 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 1 (*Lanka Puwath*) — The people of Velettiturai [VVT], Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) leader Velupillai Prabhakaran's native village, have asked him not to return home, as he had only caused them misery and suffering, Jaffna sources told *Lanka Puwath*.

The sources said that Velvettiturai, right up north at the tip of the Jaffna Peninsula, and the rest of the Vedamarachchi area which was freed from terrorist control by government troops recently, had formed peace committees.

One of the first things the peace committees had done was to tell the terrorists: Please do not come back and cause us any more misery. At last we are free from terrorist shackles and have resumed the peaceful lives we were leading until the boys' (terrorists) came and changed everything.

We have now resumed our peaceful pursuits.

The Jaffna sources said the people of Velvettiturai had in particular sent a message to Prabhakaran not to return to VVT where he set up a network of bunkers where he could hide in, but was forced to flee in the wake of advancing government troops which retook Velvettiturai and the rest of Vedamarachchi.